

Ohio Deer Summary

SUMMARY OF 2015-16 & FORECAST FOR 2016-17
OHIO DEER SEASONS

OUR DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The goal of Ohio's deer program is to provide a deer population that maximizes recreational opportunity including viewing, photographing, and hunting while minimizing conflicts with agriculture, motor travel, and other areas of human endeavor. This has been our goal for over 50 years. Historically, farmer and rural landowner attitude surveys have been used to establish population goals for most counties. While the Division of Wildlife believes these goals represent a reasonable compromise concerning appropriate deer population levels, we have updated population goals using a combination of farmer and hunter surveys in fall of 2015. Maintaining the deer population at or near goal is accomplished through harvest management.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



2015-2016 SEASON SUMMARY SEASONS AND PERMITS

A valid hunting license (resident = \$19, nonresident = \$125) and an either-sex (\$24) or antlerless permit (\$15) are required to hunt deer in Ohio. Hunters could harvest up to six deer with a combination of either-sex and antlerless permits (Figure 1); however, they were limited to one antlerless permit per county. Antlerless Permits were valid only in 10 urban counties during the first nine weeks of the archery season, as well as during all Division of Wildlife controlled hunts.

Hunters were limited to one antlered deer, and had the opportunity to hunt deer during Ohio's four seasons including archery (Sep. 26, 2015 - Feb. 7, 2016), gun (Nov. 30 - Dec. 6), bonus gun (Dec. 28-29), and muzzleloader (Jan. 9-12, 2016). Youth (17 and under) season was Nov. 21-22.

The Division of Wildlife issued 466,102 deer permits in license year 2015-16, six percent fewer than last year and the sixth consecutive year that sales have declined (Table 1). Permit sales for 2015-16 were down nearly 25% from the recent peak in 2009-10. The decreasing trend is likely due to several factors including fewer deer in many areas of the state; the statewide buck harvest of 79,176 was 17% lower than the record 2006-07 adult buck harvest (Figure 2). Also, to reduce harvest pressure on the female segment of the population, antlerless permit use was restricted to only 10 urban counties. As a result, antlerless permit sales were down 73% compared to the 2014-15 season. With antlerless permits unavailable in most areas of the state, 2015-16 either-sex permit sales increased 3% over last year.

FIGURE 1: 2015-2016 WHITE-TAILED DEER BAG LIMIT MAP

■ - Two Deer County, ■ - Three Deer County (Antlerless permits are NOT valid), ■ - Three Deer County, ■ - Four Deer County

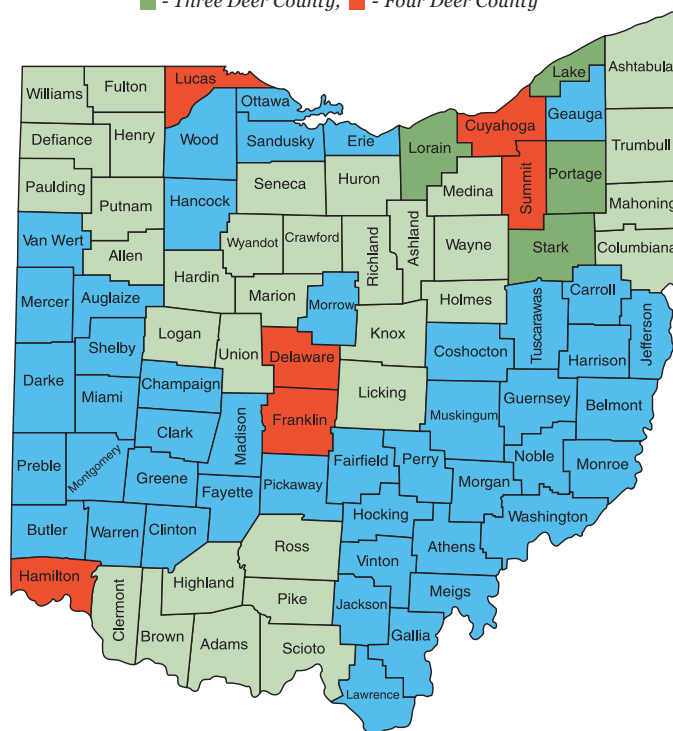
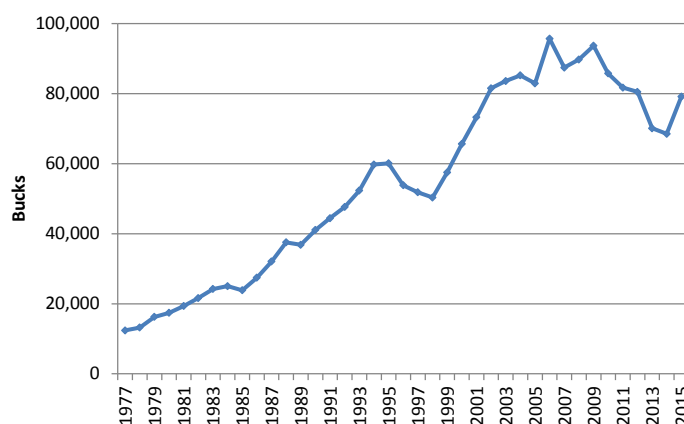


TABLE 1: OHIO DEER PERMITS ISSUED 2007-2015

Year	Permit			Total
	Youth	Either-Sex	Antlerless-only	
2007-08	65,647	411,522	101,197	578,366
2008-09	67,338	396,704	147,400	611,442
2009-10	67,828	394,620	162,460	624,908
2010-11	66,300	380,462	162,655	609,417
2011-12	62,864	377,302	163,383	603,549
2012-13	64,634	397,333	126,918*	588,885
2013-14	60,961	373,315	101,400	535,676
2014-15	58,227	378,921	57,230	494,378
2015-16	58,055	392,533	15,514	466,102

*Restrictions on the use of the antlerless permit began, and have been expanded each year since 2012.

FIGURE 2: OHIO STATEWIDE ANTLERED BUCK HARVEST, 1977-2015



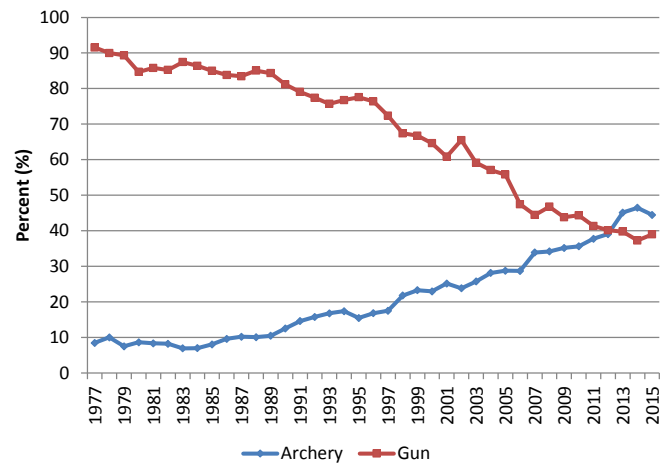
HARVEST SUMMARY

Hunters harvested 188,335 deer during the 2015-16 season, an increase of 7.1% over last season (Table 2). Hunters reported harvesting 79,176 bucks, 90,021 does, and 19,138 button bucks. Coshocton County once again led the state with 5,700 deer killed. A harvest summary by season for the top five counties is presented in Table 3, and a complete harvest summary by county and season is available in Appendix 1.

Hunters harvested 73,392 deer during the traditional statewide gun season, 12% more than last year (Table 2). Coshocton, Muskingum, Ashtabula, Tuscarawas, and Guernsey counties led the state in gun harvest (Table 3). The bonus gun season harvest was 9,447 deer. Coshocton County hunters led the way, harvesting 349 deer during the 2-day season, with Ashtabula (305), Tuscarawas (296), Muskingum (284), and Guernsey (263) counties rounding out the top five bonus gun counties.

Archers reported harvesting 83,725 deer this year, a 2.5% increase over last season (Table 2). Archers accounted for 44% of the entire deer harvest, and for the third year in a row, more deer were taken during archery season than the week of gun season. By comparison, just a decade ago the archery harvest only accounted for about 25% of the annual harvest (Figure 3). This shift in the harvest is likely due to the ever increasing interest and participation in archery hunting. In 1981, only one of three gun hunters also bowhunted. This year, more than 75% of gun hunters also hunted the archery season.

FIGURE 3: PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL OHIO DEER HARVEST TAKEN DURING THE GUN AND ARCHERY SEASONS, 1977-2015



Crossbow hunters harvested 50,734 deer this year, an increase of 7% over last season (Table 2). Licking County led the state with 1,611 deer, and Ashtabula, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Trumbull rounded out the top five crossbow harvest counties. This year's vertical bow harvest (compounds, recurves, and longbows) was 32,991 deer, 3% fewer than last year. Licking County archers led the state with a harvest of 1,095. This is the 9th consecutive year that Licking County has held the top spot for vertical bow harvest. Adams and Knox moved up to take the 2nd and 3rd spots, with Coshocton and Clermont rounding out the top 5 vertical bow harvest counties.

Table 2. Comparison of buck, doe, button buck, and total harvests by season in Ohio, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Bucks*		Does		Buttons		Total			
2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)	
Gun									
Traditional Gun (7-day)	23,807	27,290	33,842	37,663	7,835	8,439	65,484	73,392	12.1
Bonus Gun (2-day)	-	2,882	-	5,389	-	1,176	-	9,447	-
Archery									
Crossbow	21,843	24,763	21,023	21,438	4,672	4,533	47,538	50,734	6.7
Vertical Bow	15,091	15,873	16,260	14,662	2,761	2,456	34,112	32,991	-3.3
Archery Total	36,934	40,636	37,283	36,100	7,433	6,989	81,650	83,725	2.5
Muzzleloader									
Early Antlerless Only	112	-	5,521	-	980	-	6,613	-	-
Late Statewide	4,078	3,659	8,001	7,374	1,645	1,470	13,724	12,503	-8.9
Youth	2,989	3,929	2,556	2,446	908	848	6,453	7,223	11.9
Total	68,515	79,176	88,241	90,021	19,045	19,138	175,801	188,335	7.1

*Includes bucks ≥ 1.5 years old with antlers less than three inches in length (1,626), and bucks with shed antlers (858).

There were 12,503 deer harvested during the 4-day state-wide muzzleloader season, a decrease of 9% from the 2014-15 harvest (Table 2). Coshocton County was the top spot for muzzleloader hunters with a harvest of 425 deer. Tuscarawas, Muskingum, Athens, and Meigs counties held the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th spots, respectively.

Young hunters took 7,223 deer this year during the 2-day youth season, an increase of 12% over last year's harvest (Table 2). Top harvest counties for the 2-day youth season were Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Holmes, Muskingum, and Guernsey counties.

Table 3. Buck, doe, button buck, and total harvest by season for the top five counties in Ohio, 2015-16.

Season	County	Bucks*	Does	Buttons	Total	Rank	
						2015	2014
Gun	Coshocton	860	1,303	256	2,419	1	1
	Muskingum	851	1,195	237	2,283	2	2
	Ashtabula	635	1,093	274	2,002	3	5
	Tuscarawas	734	1,022	243	1,999	4	3
	Guernsey	722	1,048	225	1,995	5	4
Bonus Gun**	Coshocton	90	204	55	349	1	
	Ashtabula	74	181	50	305	2	
	Tuscarawas	79	168	49	296	3	
	Muskingum	87	166	31	284	4	
	Guernsey	95	147	21	263	5	
Crossbow	Licking	753	718	140	1,611	1	1
	Ashtabula	578	680	168	1,426	2	3
	Coshocton	693	527	104	1,324	3	2
	Tuscarawas	577	476	96	1,149	4	4
	Trumbull	458	518	137	1,113	5	5
Vertical Bow	Licking	452	553	90	1,095	1	1
	Adams	436	356	60	852	2	5
	Knox	397	396	56	849	3	7
	Coshocton	478	324	44	846	4	2
	Clermont	319	400	55	774	5	6
Muzzleloader	Coshocton	132	242	51	425	1	1
	Tuscarawas	125	253	32	410	2	7
	Muskingum	119	224	41	384	3	2
	Athens	101	223	33	357	4	10
	Meigs	98	219	38	355	5	3
Youth	Coshocton	135	80	43	258	1	1
	Tuscarawas	122	70	34	226	2	2
	Holmes	100	67	36	203	3	3
	Muskingum	113	67	20	200	4	6
	Guernsey	105	63	20	188	5	5
Total	Coshocton	2,417	2,723	560	5,700	1	1
	Licking	2,109	2,698	558	5,365	2	2
	Muskingum	2,195	2,347	424	4,966	3	4
	Tuscarawas	2,069	2,350	503	4,922	4	3
	Ashtabula	1,680	2,521	643	4,844	5	5

*Includes bucks ≥ 1.5 years old with antlers less than three inches in length and bucks with shed antlers.

**Season was suspended in 2014.

NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS

Non-resident hunters accounted for 11% of the deer permits issued, 8% of the total harvest (15,468 deer), and 12% of the buck harvest (9,015 bucks) in the 2015-16 season. Eighteen percent of the non-resident harvest (2,789 deer) was taken on public land, which is more than twice the rate of residents (8%). The non-resident harvest was 58% antlered. By comparison, the resident harvest was only 39% antlered. The counties with the largest proportion of their harvest attributable to non-residents were Adams (18.5%), Athens (18.2%), Meigs (17.8%), Morgan (17.8%), and Pike (17.7%). Putnam (0.4%), Mercer (0.7%), Miami (1.0%), Auglaize (1.2%), and Geauga (1.3%) had the lowest non-resident harvests.

More than half (58%) of the non-resident harvest occurred during archery season, with the gun and muzzleloader seasons accounting for an additional 30% and 9%, respectively (Table 4). Non-residents took a larger percentage of their harvest during archery season than either residents or landowners. Nearly 70% of the antlered and almost half of the antlerless deer harvested by non-residents were taken during archery season.

LANDOWNERS

Landowners reported harvesting 51,976 deer, 28% of the total harvest. The landowner harvest steadily increased from 1995-2005, but has since stabilized. Landowners harvested the majority of their deer (46%) during the gun season, 42% during archery, and 6% during the statewide muzzleloader season (Table 4). Though resident and non-resident hunters harvested the greatest percentage of their antlerless deer during the archery season, landowners took 50% of their antlerless deer during the gun season. Landowner proportion of the total county harvest varied considerably across the state, but was greatest among southeastern counties. Meigs County led the state with landowners accounting for 42% of the total reported harvest. Landowners also accounted for a significant portion of the total harvest in Washington (41%), Gallia (39%), Monroe (37%), and Jackson (37%) counties (Table 5). The counties with the smallest proportion of their harvest attributable to landowners were Cuyahoga (7%), Franklin (9%), Van Wert (9%), Montgomery (12%), and Marion (12%) counties.

Table 4. Proportion of antlered, antlerless, and total harvest by season, for adult residents, non-residents, and landowners during the 2015-16 Ohio deer season.

	Antlered Harvest			Antlerless Harvest			Total Harvest		
	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner	Resident	Non-resident	Landowner
Archery	54	67	52	44	46	36	48	58	42
Gun	37	25	40	41	36	50	40	30	46
Bonus Gun	4	2	4	6	4	7	5	3	6
Muzzleloader	5	6	4	9	14	7	7	9	6

Table 5. Top 10 landowner harvest counties for the 2015-16 Ohio deer season.

County	Percent of Total Harvest by Landowners	Percent of Antlered Harvest by Landowners (Rank)	Percent of Antlerless Harvest by Landowners (Rank)
Meigs	42	38 (3)	45 (1)
Washington	41	38 (2)	43 (2)
Gallia	39	39 (1)	39 (5)
Monroe	37	32 (12)	41 (3)
Jackson	37	32 (11)	40 (4)
Guernsey	37	36 (4)	37 (8)
Scioto	36	33 (6)	38 (6)
Athens	36	33 (8)	38 (7)
Perry	34	31 (14)	37 (9)
Holmes	34	34 (5)	34 (16)

Table 6. Public land and total harvest, by residency status, in the top 10 counties for public land acreage during the 2015-16 Ohio deer season.

County	Public Land			Resident Harvest			Non-resident Harvest				
	Acres*	% of County Area Open to Public Hunting	% of County Harvest Taken on Public Land	Public Land	County Total	% of Harvest Taken on Public Land	Public Land	County Total	% of Harvest Taken on Public Land	% of County's Total Harvest Taken by NR	% of County's Public Land Harvest Taken by NR
Lawrence	82,100	28	28.1	448	1,791	25.0	146	322	45.3	15.2	24.6
Scioto	72,200	18	16.4	362	2,592	14.0	135	442	30.5	14.6	27.2
Muskingum	50,300	12	17.2	631	4,257	14.8	223	709	31.5	14.3	26.1
Vinton	49,300	19	20.5	448	2,608	17.2	178	451	39.5	14.7	28.4
Hocking	45,100	17	20.2	556	3,216	17.3	197	511	38.6	13.7	26.2
Washington	39,800	10	10.9	296	3,032	9.8	89	494	18.0	14.0	23.1
Morgan	38,400	14	19.9	493	2,546	19.4	124	550	22.5	17.8	20.1
Coshocton	36,800	10	13.9	606	5,011	12.1	184	689	26.7	12.1	23.3
Athens	32,600	10	13.7	409	3,254	12.6	135	725	18.6	18.2	24.8
Monroe	30,500	10	12.7	275	2,348	11.7	54	250	21.6	9.6	16.4

*Lands open to public hunting that are owned or administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or U.S. Forest Service (Wayne National Forest), rounded to the nearest 100 acres.

PUBLIC LAND

While public land only accounts for roughly 4% of the total land area in the state, resident and non-resident hunters reported harvesting 17,055 deer, just over 9% of the season total, on public land. Antlered bucks accounted for 38% of the public land harvest, slightly less than the proportion of antlered bucks in the private land harvest (41%). With just over 80,000 acres of public land including the Wayne National Forest, Crown City Wildlife Area, and Dean State Forest, Lawrence County once again held the top spot for the proportion of harvest taken on public land (28%; Figure 4). The other top counties were Vinton (20.5%), Hocking (20.2%), Morgan (19.9%), and Lucas (19.6%). Non-resident hunters accounted for more than 20% of the public land harvest in nine of the top 10 counties (Table 6).

DEER AGE STRUCTURE

In 2015, Division of Wildlife personnel aged 6,846 deer during the week-long gun season, just over 9% of the reported harvest. Data was collected from 73 different processors in 54 counties. Figure 5 shows how the age structure of the antlered harvest has changed over time. The proportion of yearlings in the antlered buck harvest has been steadily declining since the late 1990s. In the early to mid '80s, nearly 70% of the bucks harvested were yearlings. Today, that percentage is down to 40%. A reduction of this magnitude would normally be a result of some type of regulation change, such as antler point restrictions. In our case, the decline in yearling buck harvest is likely due to at least two factors. First, the growth of the deer herd over time, coupled with very liberal antlerless harvest opportunities likely reduced the pressure on the antlered segment of the population. Second, and most importantly, Ohio hunters seem to be aware of the benefits of allowing bucks to mature, and have acted on their own "self-imposed" restrictions.

FIGURE 4: PERCENT OF COUNTY HARVEST TAKEN ON PUBLIC LAND DURING THE 2015-16 OHIO DEER SEASON

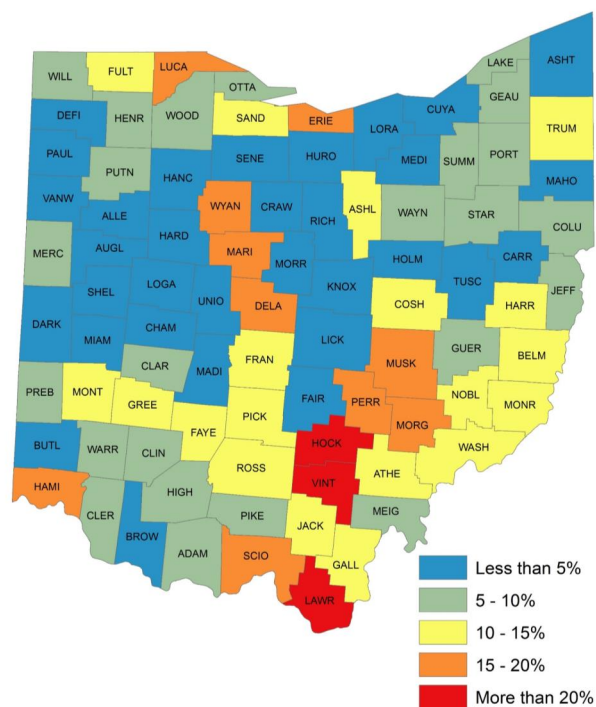
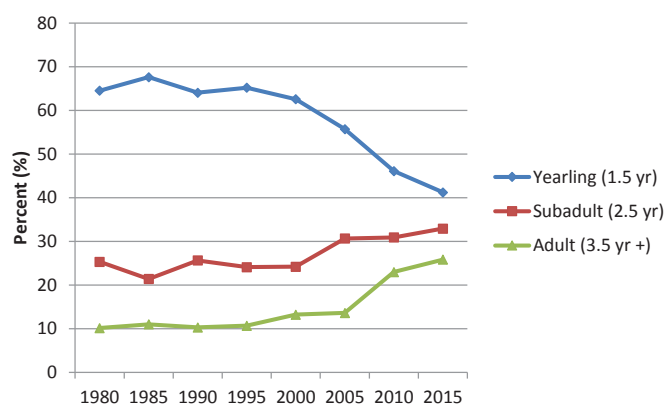


FIGURE 5: STATEWIDE TRENDS IN ANTLERED BUCK AGE STRUCTURE, AS DETERMINED BY A SAMPLE OF THE ANNUAL GUN SEASON HARVEST, 1980-2015



HUNTER SUCCESS, PARTICIPATION RATES, AND EFFORT

This year, 226,348 resident adults purchased at least one either-sex or antlerless-only permit and 74,188 harvested at least one deer, for a 33% hunter success rate (Table 7). Hunter success rates differed markedly on public and private land. Thirty-one percent of private land hunters were successful, as compared to only 14% of public land hunters. Because our deer hunter surveys are limited to resident adult hunters, rates may be different for non-resident hunters, as well as youth, disabled veterans, free and reduced cost seniors, and landowners.

During the 2015-16 season, 81% of hunters bowhunted, while 78%, 27% and 32% reported hunting in the gun, bonus gun, and muzzleloader seasons, respectively (Table 7; Figure 6). Hunter effort has remained relatively constant since 2001. In the 2015-16 season, archery, gun, and muzzleloader hunters spent, on average, 20.3, 3.7, and 2.1 days hunting those seasons, with hunters averaging 20.3 days in the field over the course of the entire season (Table 8). The gun and archery season success rates were very similar, with almost one in five hunters reporting a deer harvest (Table 7). When considering the archery and gun success rates, it is important to remember that these are very much dependent upon each other. More than 75% of gun

FIGURE 6: SEASON-SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION RATES BASED ON RESULTS OF THE 2015-16 DEER HUNTER SURVEY

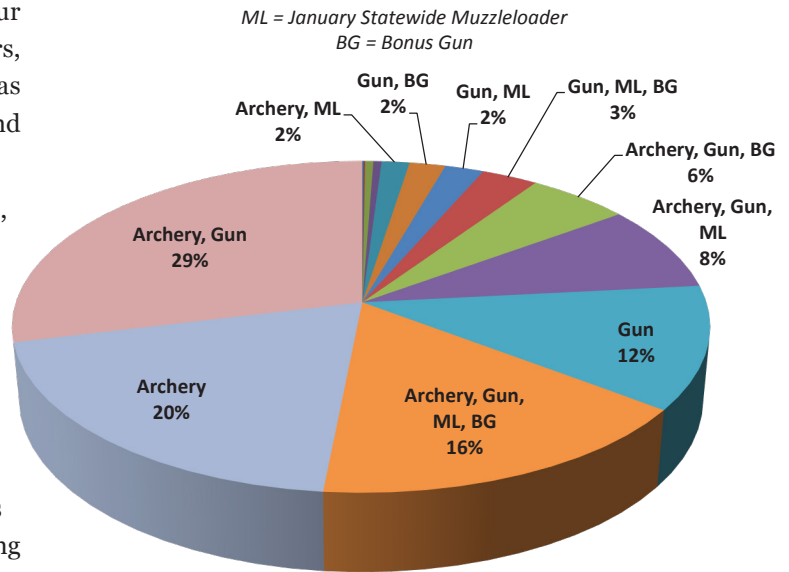


Table 7. Participation and success rates for resident adult hunters on public and private land for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Ohio deer seasons.

	Participation Rate ¹			Estimated Number of Hunters ¹			Number of Successful Hunters ²			Success Rate (%) ¹		
	2014	2015	% Change	2014	2015	% Change	2014	2015	% Change	2014	2015	% Change
Archery	0.82	0.81	-1.9									
Private				178,306	171,664		33,177	33,969	2.4	18.5	19.8	7.0
Public				59,115	58,752		3,977	4,611	15.9	6.7	7.8	17.4
Total				188,369	183,002	-2.8	36,461	37,268	2.2	19.4	20.4	5.2
Gun	0.69	0.78	12.7									
Private				149,463	165,304		26,432	29,361	11.1	17.6	17.8	1.1
Public				49,553	56,575		4,363	5,091	16.7	8.7	9.0	2.9
Total				157,898	176,222	11.6	30,548	34,168	11.9	19.3	19.4	0.2
Bonus Gun		0.27										
Private					58,381			4,109			7.0	
Public					19,981			671			3.4	
Total					62,237			4,749			7.6	
Muzzleloader	0.33	0.32	-5.5									
Private				72,647	67,350		6,174	5,778	-6.4	8.4	8.6	1.6
Public				24,085	23,051		914	799	-12.6	3.8	3.5	-8.1
Total				76,747	71,799	-6.4	7,065	6,564	-7.1	9.2	9.1	-0.7
Total												
Private				217,695	212,324		61,697	66,203	7.3	28.3	31.2	10.0
Public				72,174	72,668		9,374	10,060	7.3	13.0	13.8	6.6
Total				228,530	226,348	-1.0	69,020	74,188	7.5	30.2	32.8	8.5

¹ Represents only resident adult hunters. Excludes non-residents, youth, seniors, disabled veterans, and landowners.

² The number of unique resident adults that harvested at least one deer.

Table 8. Average number of days spent hunting in 2001, 2011-2013, and 2015 Ohio deer seasons.

	2001	2011	2012	2013	2015
Archery	20.8	19.3	19.2	19.7	20.3
Early Muzzleloader	-	-	-	1.6	-
Gun	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7
Bonus Gun	-	1.6	1.5	-	1.6
Statewide Muzzleloader	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.1
All Seasons	17.3	19.9	20.0	19.7	20.3

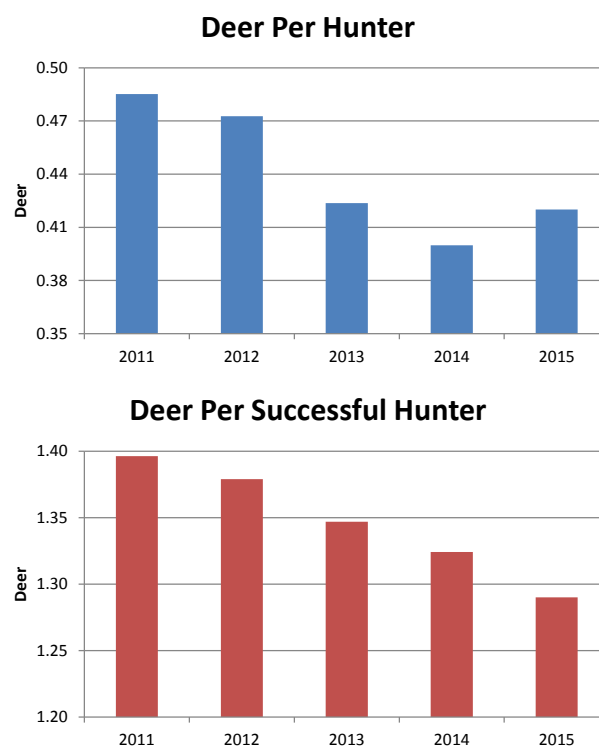
hunters are also bow hunters that likely hunt prior to the gun season. Because most hunters participate in multiple seasons and many choose to hunt bucks only, season-specific success rates have limited value and certainly cannot be compared with other states where hunters have season-specific permits.

From 2011 to 2014, there was a steady decline in the number of deer taken per hunter. In 2011, 243,126 resident adults harvested 117,988 deer, or 0.49 deer per hunter. This figure declined to 0.47 in 2012, 0.42 in 2013, and in 2014 there were 0.40 deer harvested per resident adult. In 2015, however, there was a slight increase up to 0.42 deer harvested per hunter. Similarly, there has also been a steady decline in the number of deer taken by successful hunters. Successful hunters averaged harvesting 1.40, 1.38, 1.35, 1.32, and 1.29 deer, 2011-2015 (Figure 7).

In spite of large deer populations and liberal bag limits, only 18% of successful hunters harvested more than one deer in the 2006 season. This changed dramatically with the introduction of the \$15 antlerless permit in 2007. From 2007 to 2011, there was a steady increase in the percentage of successful hunters harvesting more than one deer, peaking at 27% in 2011. This percentage has steadily declined since 2012, down to 22% in 2015, and is likely due to several factors including a smaller deer population, and recent restrictions on the use of the antlerless permit. Of important note is the fact that the bag limit has little impact on both the number of deer harvested per hunter and the percentage of hunters harvesting multiple deer. For example, in 2012 the statewide bag limit was 18 deer. That year, successful hunters averaged 1.40 deer and only 27% reported harvesting more than one. The following year, the statewide bag limit was reduced by 50% to 9 deer, yet the proportion of hunters bagging multiple deer and the average number of deer harvested dropped by just 3%.

As in years past, the vast majority of successful hunters (78%) harvested only a single deer in the 2015-16 season. This year, 17.7% of successful hunters bagged two deer, 3.2% harvested three, and only 0.8% took four or more deer (Figure 8). Again, to emphasize the limited influence of a large

FIGURE 7: AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEER TAKEN PER HUNTER AND PER SUCCESSFUL HUNTER, 2011-2015



bag limit, less than 1% of successful hunters harvested five or more deer in any given year, and specifically in 2015, only 283 of the 226,348 permit buyers (0.1%) tagged five or more deer.

Figure 9 shows how the number of deer harvested per successful hunter has changed over time. In 2006, prior to the introduction of the antlerless permit, almost 84% of multiple-harvest hunters bagged only two deer, and only 16% took three or more. By 2011, with the availability of \$15 antlerless permits, almost 30% of those hunters taking multiple deer harvested at least three. As deer populations have been reduced closer to goal and restrictions placed on the use of the antlerless permit, the number of hunters taking three or more deer has declined each of the past three seasons. This year, of hunters harvesting multiple deer, 81% bagged only two, and 19% took three or more (Figure 9).

FIGURE 8: PERCENT OF SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS TAKING ONE, TWO, THREE, OR MORE THAN THREE DEER DURING THE 2015-16 SEASON

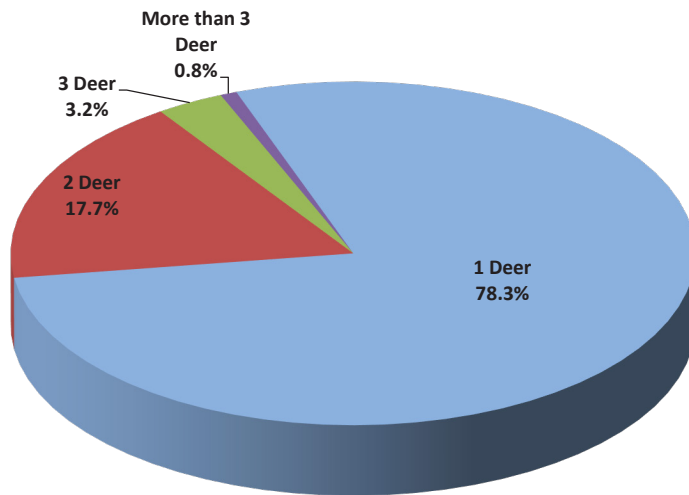
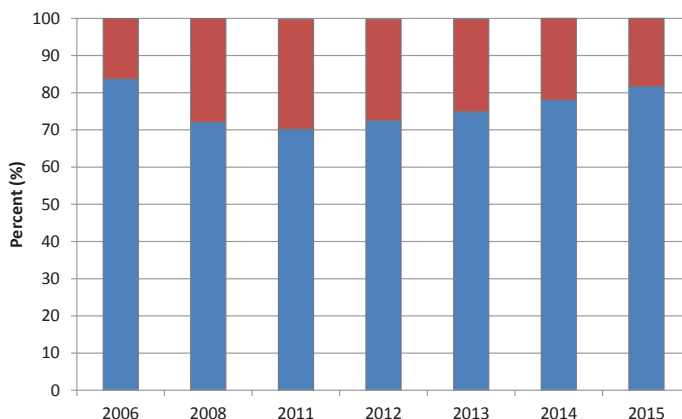


FIGURE 9: AMONG HUNTERS HARVESTING MULTIPLE DEER, PERCENT TAKING ONLY TWO (BLUE) AND THREE OR MORE (RED) DURING THE 2006, 2008, AND 2011-2015 SEASONS



DISEASE UPDATE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. CWD is disease caused by abnormal proteins, or prions (not a bacteria or virus), that ultimately destroy brain tissue. This type of disease is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). This family of diseases includes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (“mad cow disease”), scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) in humans.

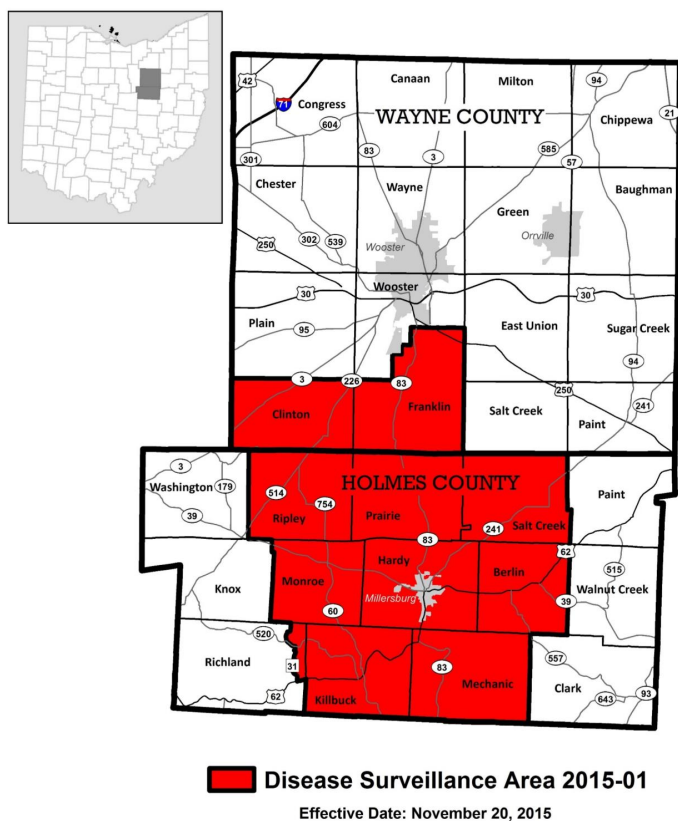
Since 2002 the Division of Wildlife has conducted statewide CWD surveillance, testing more than 14,500 free-ranging deer. To date, there has yet to be a wild, free-ranging deer test

positive for the disease in Ohio. In 2015, Division of Wildlife staff collected 824 road-killed deer from 57 counties. An additional 1,000 deer harvested by hunters during the 2015-16 season (752 submitted by hunters and 248 collected from taxidermists) and 51 deer that either appeared to be in poor condition or were displaying abnormal behavior were also collected and tested for the disease. As in previous years, CWD was not detected in any of the wild deer tested. However, in October of 2014, a mature buck from a shooting preserve in Holmes County tested positive for CWD, becoming the first-ever CWD-positive deer in Ohio. The shooting preserve was depopulated in April of 2015, and testing revealed no additional CWD-positive animals. Subsequent testing of nearly 300 free-ranging deer in an 8-township area around the shooting preserve failed to detect any CWD-positive deer as well. However, in spring of 2015, two more CWD-positive deer were reported from a captive white-tailed deer breeding pen in Holmes County. This herd was depopulated in June 2015, and 16 additional deer tested positive for the disease, bringing the grand total of CWD-positive animals found in Ohio to 19 (all in captive herds). In response to these findings, the Division of Wildlife conducted targeted surveillance in the immediate vicinity of the infected facility during the summer of 2015. Staff collected 18 deer, including two that had escaped from captive facilities, with none testing positive for CWD.

Additionally, the focus area in 2015 was expanded to include two townships in southern Wayne County, and the 10-township focus area was declared a Disease Surveillance Area (DSA, Figure 10). This DSA designation will remain in effect for a minimum of three years and the following regulations apply: 1) required submission of deer harvested within the DSA to Division of Wildlife inspection stations for sampling during the gun and muzzleloader seasons, 2) prohibit the placement of or use of salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed to attract or feed deer within the DSA boundaries, 3) prohibit the hunting of deer by the aid of salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed within the DSA boundaries, and 4) prohibit the

removal of a deer carcass killed by motor vehicle within the DSA boundaries unless the carcass complies with the cervidae carcass regulations (see wildohio.gov for additional information on carcass regulations). Under the new rule requiring mandatory submission of deer harvested in the DSA, hunters presented nearly 550 deer for testing at inspection stations during the gun, bonus gun, and muzzleloader seasons this past year. Combining all methods of sample collection (roadkill, mandatory submission of hunter harvests during the gun seasons, voluntary submission of hunter harvests during the archery season, and targeted surveillance), 752 deer were tested from the DSA.

FIGURE 10: DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AREA 2015-01 (DSA)



LOOKING BACK

In 2015, the early antlerless-only muzzleloader season was suspended and a 2-day either-sex gun hunt was added between Christmas and New Year's day. With 9,447 deer harvested, the bonus gun season accounted for 5% of the total 2015-16 harvest. Of interest, 6,788 of these deer were antlerless, similar to the 6,613 antlerless deer taken during the 2014 early muzzleloader season.

The 2015 season marked the second year that a limited number of straight-walled cartridge (SWC) calibers were legal for deer hunting. Hunters harvested 754, 8,376, and 1,187

deer with SWC rifles during the youth, gun and bonus gun seasons, respectively, accounting for 10%, 11% and 12% of the total reported harvest during those seasons. According to the results of the 2015-16 Deer Hunter Effort and Harvest Survey, the majority of hunters (66%) used a shotgun during the traditional 7-day gun season, 17% used a muzzleloader, and 15% used a SWC rifle. The .45-70 was the most popular choice among hunters, with 48% opting for this caliber. Other popular choices included the .44 Magnum (28%), .444 Marlin (13%), and .357 Magnum (3%).

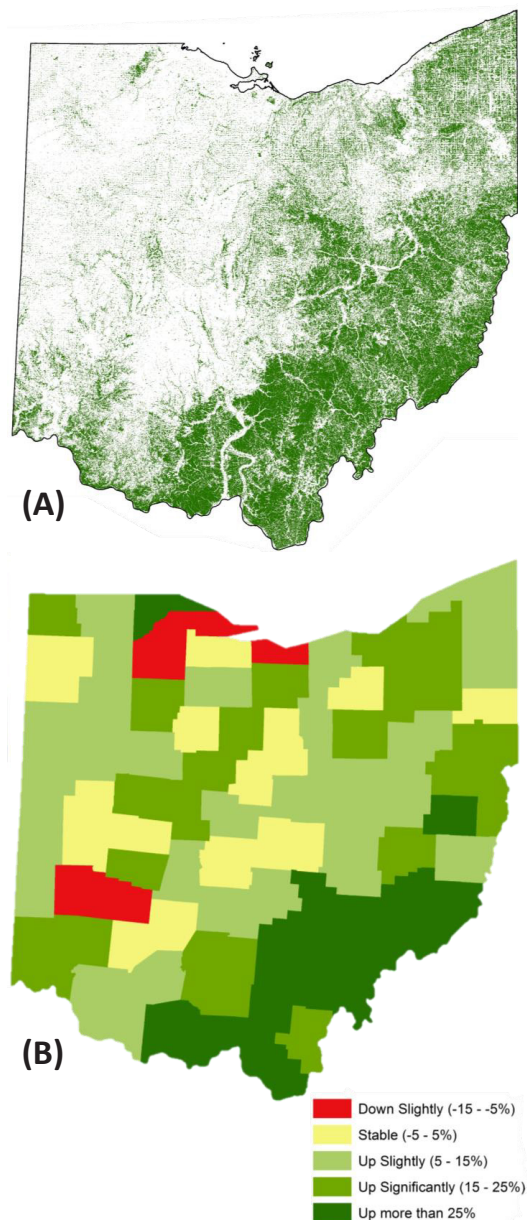
The 2015-16 regulations were intended to reduce antlerless harvest and encourage herd growth. Due to reducing bag limits in 45 counties and removing the antlerless permit in all but 10 urban counties, our preseason projections estimated a 5% - 7% decline in the antlerless harvest for the 2015-16 season. Instead, the 2015 antlerless harvest increased by 1%. Likewise, while a 5% - 7% percent increase in the buck harvest was projected due to a small population increase, the 2015 buck harvest was up 16% compared to 2014. Though buck harvest is used as the primary index of deer population size, this year's 16% increase does not equate to a 16% increase in the population. There are many variables that can influence the annual harvest such as weather, standing crops, and mast availability, and the 2015 harvest was heavily influenced by all three of these factors. Unfavorable weather conditions during several key hunting days in the 2014 season resulted in an artificially low harvest last year. Better weather in 2015's gun season led to a 12% increase in the gun season harvest this year. Secondly, in Ohio's heavily farmed counties, the timing of crop removal can have an effect on harvest success. In 2015, weather conditions allowed for early crop harvest across much of the state, generally forcing deer to seek cover in the small woodlots that dot the agricultural landscape, ultimately making them more predictable and vulnerable to harvest.

Finally, deer movement and thus, hunter success, is partially dependent upon the acorn crop in forest-dominated landscapes. According to data collected during our annual mast crop survey on 38 wildlife areas throughout Ohio, acorn abundance was below average in 2015, with only 29% of white oaks and 41% of red oaks bearing fruit. In addition to few trees actually bearing acorns, those that did had a relatively small crop. Specifically, the average crown coverage on white oaks was only 5% in 2015, compared to 14% in 2014, and coverage on red oaks was only about 10%, compared to 25% in 2014. With few acorns available, deer were forced to seek other food sources, increasing their movements and making them particularly susceptible to bait and food plots, both of which increase hunter success and lead to a larger harvest.

Considering that some of the largest harvest increases occurred in southeast Ohio's oak-hickory dominated counties, it is clear that a poor mast crop had an impact on the 2015 harvest (Figure 11). Some counties (all in southeast Ohio) with significant increases in the buck harvest include Scioto (52%), Athens (38%), Vinton (36%), Hocking (35%), Meigs (34%), Jackson (33%), Perry (29%), Monroe (28%), Harrison (27%), and Morgan (27%). All told, 15 counties saw buck harvest increases of more than 25% in the 2015-16 season. Likewise, despite the fact that the bag limit was reduced to two, and antlerless permits were not available (regulations intended to reduce antlerless harvest), many of these counties saw increases in the antlerless harvest as well.

FIGURE 11: FOREST COVER IN OHIO (A), AND PERCENT CHANGE IN THE BUCK HARVEST FROM 2014 TO 2015 (B).

Note the large harvest increases in the oak-hickory forests of southeast Ohio where acorn crop can heavily influence deer movement and hunter success.



2016-2017 SEASON PREVIEW BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Division of Wildlife remains committed to providing quality deer now and into the future. To accomplish this, hunters must harvest an adequate number of does each year to maintain the herd at a level that is not only socially acceptable to most, but that the habitat is capable of supporting in good to excellent condition. Through a combination of liberal bag limits, reduced cost antlerless permits, and other programmatic changes, including education on the importance of an adequate doe harvest, the Division has successfully moved deer populations in most counties to, or very near, the population goals that were established in 2000. Regulations have become increasingly conservative over the last several years to alleviate harvest pressure on antlerless deer, and the results of the 2015 population goal setting process indicate that most areas of the state can tolerate moderate herd growth (see "Population Goal Setting Surveys" on pages 17 - 18 for more information). Though the bag limit and antlerless permit availability will not change for the 2016-17 season, the current regulations are designed to promote modest herd growth.

Minimal changes are in store for the 2016-17 season. Bag limits and antlerless permit availability will remain the same. After seeking public input concerning the timing of the 2-day bonus gun season and statewide muzzleloader seasons, results indicated that the majority of hunters favored the weekend before Christmas (December 17-18, 2016) as opposed to the week between Christmas and New Year's day. Moving the 2-day season back to mid-December allowed the January muzzleloader season to return to its original timeslot - the first Saturday following New Year's day (January 7 - 10, 2017).

HUNTER FEEDBACK

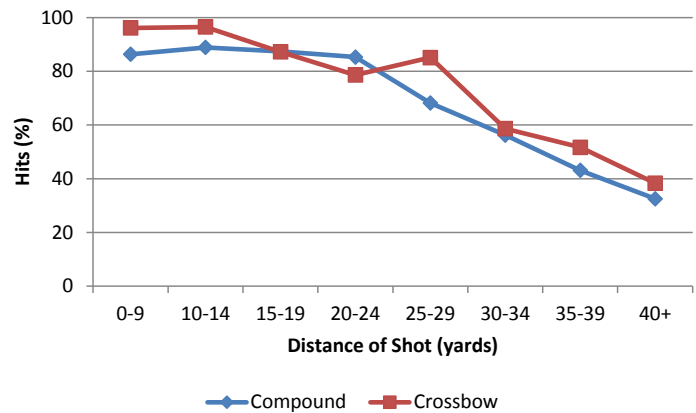
Each year since 2011, and periodically over the last several decades, the Division has sent surveys to a random sample of adult resident deer permit buyers. These surveys are designed to not only gather important information about season participation, hunting effort, and deer observations, but to also seek hunters' opinions on important deer management issues. Survey results have been used in combination with permit sales and annual harvest data to guide and/or directly influence annual harvest regulations. In short, these annual surveys play a vital role in the deer management process. Finally, many find these results interesting and have asked for a summary of our findings. Therefore, this section of the annual harvest summary is dedicated to annual hunter survey results. Our hope is this will not only be interesting and informative, but to also serve as an incentive for hunters to return their survey should they receive one in the future.

ARCHERY SURVEY

Because of the increasing popularity of the archery season and its impact on the annual harvest, the Division conducted an archery-specific survey following the 2014-15 deer season to examine archer proficiency and wounding rates. Of the 2,483 invitations, 1,391 surveys were completed (56% response rate), and 967 participants (70%) attempted to harvest at least one deer (actually released an arrow). In sum, survey participants reported 1,686 harvest attempts (1.2 harvest attempts per hunter) during the 2014-15 archery season. Nearly 90% of harvest attempts made with a compound or traditional bow were from a treestand, while one out of four harvest attempts with a crossbow were from the ground. The average shot distance was 25 yards, and those shots resulting in a hit were almost 30% closer (22 yards) than those that missed (31 yards). Figure 12 shows accuracy above 80% for compounds and crossbows out to 25 yards, but dipping to below 40% for shots 40 yards or longer.

Compound and crossbow users exhibited similar accuracy and wounding rates, with 69% and 74% of harvest attempts resulting in a hit, and wounding rates of 18% and 19%, re-

FIGURE 12: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHOT DISTANCE AND HITS FOR COMPOUNDS AND CROSSBOWS DURING THE 2014-15 ARCHERY SEASON



spectively (Table 9). The significant challenge of hunting with traditional archery equipment resulted in lower accuracy (57%) and a higher wounding rate (30%), though these results should be viewed with some caution due to small sample size (only 21 hunters reported attempting a harvest with traditional archery equipment). Compound and crossbow wounding rates as reported by Ohio's archers are equivalent to the 18% reported by Pederson et al. in their 2008 publication from research done in Maryland (Wounding rates of white-tailed deer with modern archery equipment, Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies).

Of those deer that were successfully recovered, the average distance a deer traveled before expiring was 74 yards. The majority (55%) of recoveries occurred within 50 yards, and only 11% of recovered deer traveled farther than 100 yards. In nearly half (49%) of the 972 recoveries, hunters reported that the deer expired within sight of their stand. Given that many hunters saw the deer expire, and nearly 90% of recoveries occurred within 100 yards, it is not surprising that 84% of deer were recovered in less than 30 minutes. In only 6% of recoveries, hunters searched for longer than 1 hour before finding their deer.

Table 9. Proportion of harvest attempts resulting in a hit and wounding rates for compound bows, crossbows, and traditional bows, 2014-15 Archery Survey.

	Harvest Attempts	Hits	Hit %	Recovered	Wounding Rate
Compound Bow	955	655	68.6	539	17.7
Crossbow	696	517	74.3	419	19.0
Traditional Bow	35	20	57.1	14	30.0
All Implements	1,686	1,192	70.7	972	18.5

PUBLIC LAND CONUNDRUM

Because access to Ohio's public land is largely unrestricted - potentially resulting in crowded hunting conditions, low deer numbers, and fewer successful hunters - calls to consider managing them differently have become more frequent. The Division of Wildlife recognizes that a successful hunt isn't necessarily measured in pounds of venison. Seeing deer and deer sign and hunting uninterrupted have been identified as measures of a quality hunt. All of these factors are related to hunter density, which, as noted, is currently not regulated on our public lands. We asked the following question on the 2012 deer hunter survey to assess Ohio hunters' feelings toward creating "Quality Hunting Areas" on Division of Wildlife-owned lands: *"Access to Division of Wildlife properties (wildlife management areas) is currently unrestricted and creating a quality deer hunting opportunity on these areas would require that hunter access be limited. Creating just one quality hunting area in each district on a wildlife management area would not only reduce hunter access to that property, but would likely result in more pressure on other public areas. Would you support the establishment of a limited number of "quality hunt areas" on Division of Wildlife-owned wildlife management areas that were accessible only to those hunters drawn in a lottery?"* The majority (60%) of those hunting mostly or exclusively on public land did not support this approach.

However, complaints about public land deer hunting continue and have increased as of late. Survey results from the 2015-16 season show that nearly 70% of public land hunters feel there are too few deer and half of them believe there are too many hunters (compared to 53% of private land hunters that feel there are too few deer, and 28% that think there are

too many hunters). Not surprisingly then, public land hunters are more dissatisfied with their hunting experience than others (Figure 13). The problem is clear: public land hunters feel too much pressure from other hunters and don't see enough deer while afield, both of which result in low hunter satisfaction. However, a solution is much more difficult to identify, so another attempt was made to identify potential solutions to this problem with a survey to 25,000 deer hunters. We received 4,017 completed surveys (17% response rate), 393 of which self-reported as hunting mostly or only public land. We asked two primary questions of this group: 1) *Should regulations be used to reduce antlerless harvest and encourage herd growth on Division of Wildlife-owned public lands?*, and 2) *Should these lands be treated differently than private land when setting deer harvest regulations?* Most public land hunters (65%) were in agreement that regulations should be used to reduce antlerless harvest on public land.

However, support quickly waned if it meant that public land would be managed differently than private property. Less than half of public land hunters were in support of treating public land differently than private land when setting harvest regulations. In fact, the proportion of public land hunters in support of (45%) and in opposition to (37%) implementing separate regulations for public and private land was not statistically different (denoted by the overlapping error bars in Figure 14).

Even if hunters supported change to public land regulations, of the four management options for reducing the antlerless harvest under consideration [1) limited number of days to hunt deer of either-sex, 2) lower bag limit than surrounding private land, 3) antlerless permit restrictions, and 4) season restrictions (e.g., antlered-only bonus gun or muzzleloader)], the only two options with more support than opposition (lower bag limit and antlerless permit restrictions) would be the least effective at reducing the antlerless harvest (Figure 15). Limiting or disallowing antlerless permit use on public land was the most supported option, likely due in part to the fact that this has already occurred. Antlerless permits were only valid in 10 urban counties in the 2015-16 season, resulting in limited use on public lands. Reducing the public land bag limit would have little impact, as 91% of hunters successful on public land harvested only a single deer in the 2015-16 season, and only 5% of them tagged more than one antlerless deer. Despite low satisfaction among public land hunters, feedback from multiple surveys indicate little support for implementing regulations to increase deer populations and/or reduce hunting pressure on public lands.

FIGURE 13: SATISFACTION SCORES OF HUNTERS RESPONDING TO THE 2015-16 DEER HUNTER SURVEY

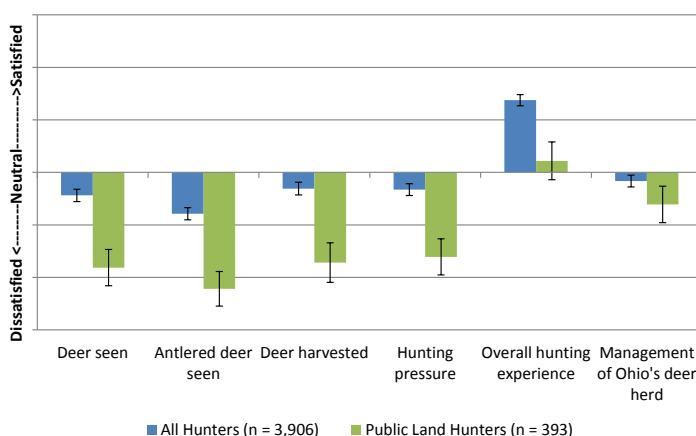


FIGURE 14: PROPORTION OF PUBLIC LAND HUNTERS ($n = 389$) AGREEING OR DISAGREEING TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS POSED ON THE 2015-16 DEER HUNTER SURVEY:

1) *Should regulations be used to reduce antlerless harvest and encourage herd growth on public land?* 2) *Should public lands be managed differently than private land when setting deer harvest regulations?*

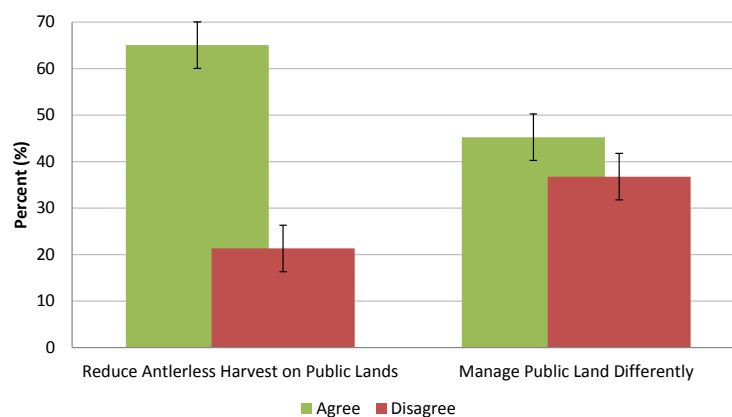
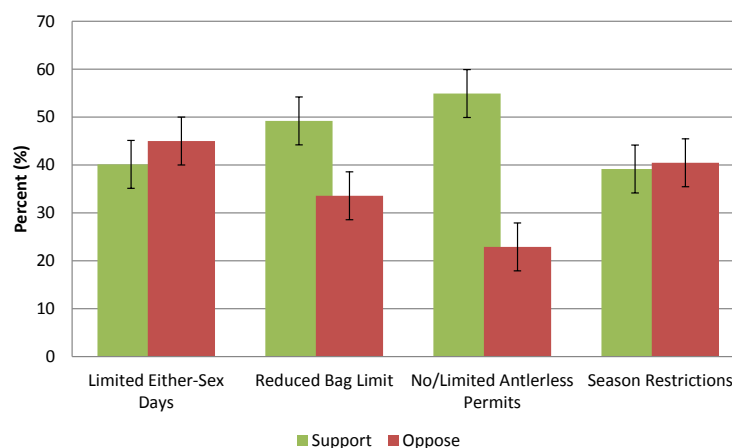


FIGURE 15: PROPORTION OF PUBLIC LAND HUNTERS THAT SUPPORT AND OPPOSE FOUR POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR REDUCING ANTLERLESS HARVEST ON PUBLIC LANDS



YOUTH SEASON PARTICIPATION AND TIMING

We included a section on the 2015-16 deer hunter survey to better understand participation and gather opinions on the timing of the 2-day youth season. Only 15% of respondents indicated that they took a youth hunting during the 2015 youth deer season. Of these, nearly 80% took a youth that was a member of their immediate family. For the 130 surveyed hunters that took a non-family member, nearly 80% of them indicated that the youth had either been introduced to hunting prior to the 2-day youth season or would likely be introduced to deer hunting in the near future even in the absence of a youth-only season. With only 4% of the participants getting their only exposure to deer hunting via the 2-day youth season, the original purpose of the season (to serve as a hunting recruitment tool) needs additional evaluation.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the timing of the 2-day youth season has come under question, being that it falls

during the latter part of the rut and just one week prior to the statewide gun season. Many have suggested that the season be moved earlier to decrease the likelihood of youth hunters experiencing foul weather, as well as to allow the deer herd “to settle down” before the statewide gun season. In an attempt to better understand preferences for the timing of this season, we asked hunters about their level of support for the following three youth season dates: 1) second weekend in October, 2) third weekend in October, and 3) weekend prior to Thanksgiving (current time frame). Both the second weekend in October and the current time frame received equal support (44%) and opposition (30%). When examining the responses by hunter-type, it appears that firearm-only hunters prefer the youth season be moved earlier - away from the gun season, while archery-only hunters prefer that the season remain in its current time frame, presumably to prevent interference with their early season hunting (Figure 16).

HUNTER HARVEST DECISIONS AND SELECTIVITY

Several questions on the 2015-16 deer hunter survey were designed to gain a better understanding of how a host of variables may influence a hunter's decision to harvest a deer. We first wanted to know to what extent, if at all, changes to bag limits or regulations affect a hunter's decision to harvest an antlerless deer. Survey results indicate that this behavior is not widespread among Ohio hunters, as only about one-third agreed that changes to the bag limit or antlerless permit availability influenced their decision to harvest an antlerless deer. Rather, most (65%) said that their antlerless harvest decisions are based on their perception of the size of the deer population. For those that use their observations of the local deer herd to guide their harvest decisions, nearly 80% of them were more likely to pass on antlerless deer when they felt numbers were below average, suggesting that most hunters have a firm grasp on the relationship between the level of antlerless harvest and its impact on population size.

Next, we inquired about hunters' level of selectivity when harvesting bucks by asking them to choose which of the following statements best described their buck hunting behavior: 1) *I generally harvest the first buck that gives me an opportunity regardless of size*, 2) *I generally pass on yearling bucks (spikes, fork horns, etc.), but will harvest the first "decent" buck that presents an opportunity*, 3) *I generally pass on all but a few of the higher quality bucks in my hunting area. However, I would rather shoot a buck that didn't quite meet my original standards than end the season with an unfilled tag*, or 4) *I am extremely selective with my buck harvest. I only hunt for a couple of the highest quality bucks in my hunting area, and I would rather end the season with an unfilled tag than harvest a buck that didn't meet my high standards*. Nearly nine out of 10 hunters expressed some level of selectivity with their buck harvest, as only 11% reported they harvest any buck at the first opportunity (Figure 17). The largest group of hunters (38%) placed themselves in the second category, passing on yearling bucks while likely taking a shot at the first "decent" buck that presented an opportunity. Nearly one-third of hunters reported that they would not fill their tag on a buck unless it was one of the highest quality bucks in their hunting area. When asked how the size of the deer population may influence their level of buck selectivity, a majority (58%) said that they become more selective when deer numbers are up. However, lower deer numbers didn't appear to have as large of an effect on hunter selectivity, as only one-third of respondents reported that they would lower their standards when facing a smaller population.

FIGURE 16: LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THREE YOUTH SEASON OPTIONS

Note equal support among all hunters for the 2nd weekend of October and the current time frame

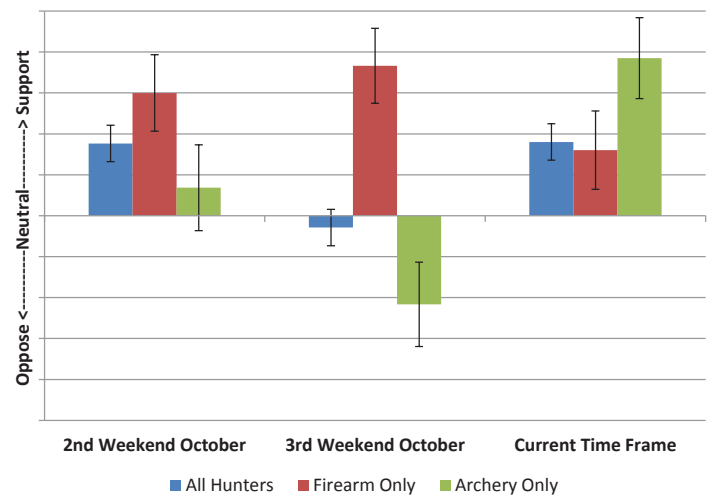
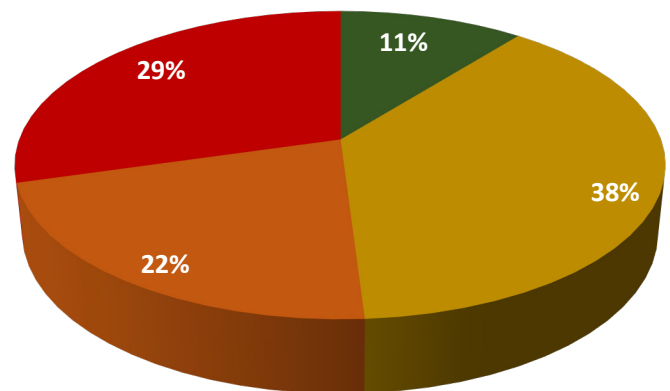


FIGURE 17: HUNTER SELECTIVITY ACCORDING TO RESULTS OF THE 2015-16 DEER HUNTER SURVEY



I generally harvest the first buck that gives me an opportunity regardless of size.

I generally pass on yearling bucks (spikes, fork horns, etc.), but will harvest the first "decent" buck that presents an opportunity.

I generally pass on all but a few of the higher quality bucks in my hunting area. However, I would rather shoot a buck that didn't quite meet my original standards than end the season with an unfilled tag.

I am extremely selective with my buck harvest. I only hunt for a couple of the highest quality bucks in my hunting area, and I would rather end the season with an unfilled tag than harvest a buck that didn't meet my high standards.

GUN SEASON CHANGES

While smaller deer populations have likely contributed to the decline in gun harvest and success rates in recent years, the portion of the total season's harvest taken during the gun week has slowly been declining over the past few decades. The popularity of archery hunting, additional days of gun hunting opportunity and changes in hunting style have all contributed in some way to the declining gun season harvest. As noted above, hunters have shifted a large percentage of their effort into the archery season. In 1977, archers only accounted for 8% of the total harvest while gun hunters bagged 92% of all deer taken in Ohio that year. In stark contrast, archers were responsible for 44% of the entire 2015 deer harvest, while gun season only accounted for 39%. Not only does this significant increase in archery harvest remove a large portion of the harvestable animals from the population prior to gun season, but these successful archers, many of whom used to be gun hunters, now have a deer in the bag and are less apt to harvest a deer during the gun season. In fact, the top reason for those hunters that no longer participate in the gun season was that a long archery season provides all the hunting opportunity that they desire (Figure 18).

In addition to the popularity of archery hunting, nine additional days of firearm hunting since 1977 has certainly impacted our traditional gun season. In 1977, hunters had 6 days to hunt with a firearm, and gun season accounted for 100% of the firearms harvest. This year, gun season only accounted for 71% of the firearms harvest (Figure 19). It is important to note, however, that hunter effort during the gun season has not changed appreciably over the last several decades. Participation rates have fallen only slightly from about 85% in the mid-'80s to 78% in 2015, and the average number of days spent afield during the gun season has remained constant at

about 3.7. In spite of the data that indicates gun season participation and effort has remained relatively constant, anecdotal comments from hunters and wildlife officer field contacts suggest much lower gun season participation now than in years past. We have hypothesized that a change in hunting methods, from mobile hunters driving and still-hunting, to stationary hunters sitting in a treestand or ground blind, has led to the *appearance* of fewer hunters in the woods and fields during the traditional gun season.

To better understand this apparent contradiction, we asked hunters to characterize their primary hunting methods during their first-ever and most recent gun seasons. Data gathered from the 2015-16 deer hunter survey strongly suggests that gun hunters have indeed altered their hunting style over time (Figure 20). Specifically, the proportion of hunters hunting from treestands jumped from less than 20% during their first gun season (mid-1980s), to more than 50% during their most recent gun season. Likewise, the percentage of hunters employing a mobile strategy (still hunting or conducting deer drives) declined from over 40% in the mid-'80s to about 20% in recent years. Although participation rates and effort would suggest the number of hunters out during gun week hasn't changed significantly, more hunters opting to sit in a treestand makes them less visible and leads to the false impression that hunters aren't hunting as much during the gun season. In fact, 50% of surveyed hunters reported that they saw fewer gun hunters during their most recent season than they did when they first started hunting. Not only does this change in hunting methods lead to a perception of fewer hunters on the landscape, but fewer still-hunters and deer drives lowers the likelihood that deer will be "pushed" around the landscape, ultimately resulting in reduced deer movement and hunter success.

FIGURE 18: REASONS WHY HUNTERS NO LONGER HUNT DURING THE GUN SEASON
(n = 348 hunters)



FIGURE 19: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBER OF DAYS AVAILABLE TO HUNT WITH A FIREARM AND PERCENTAGE OF THE FIREARMS HARVEST OCCURRING DURING THE GUN SEASON

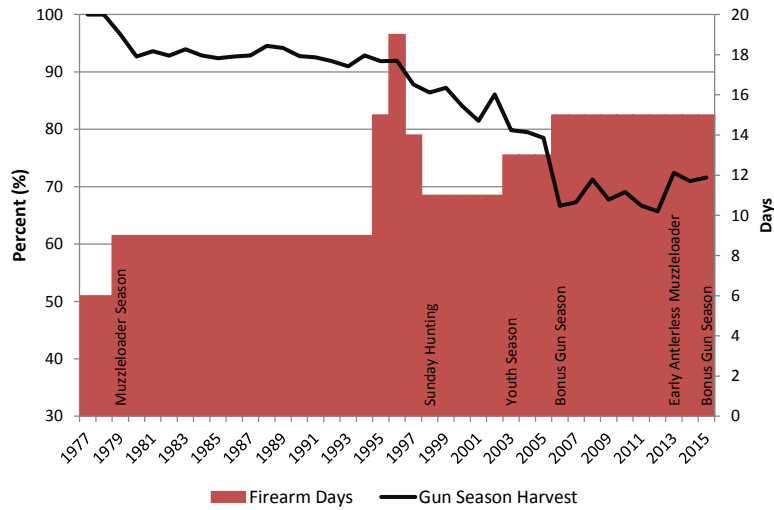
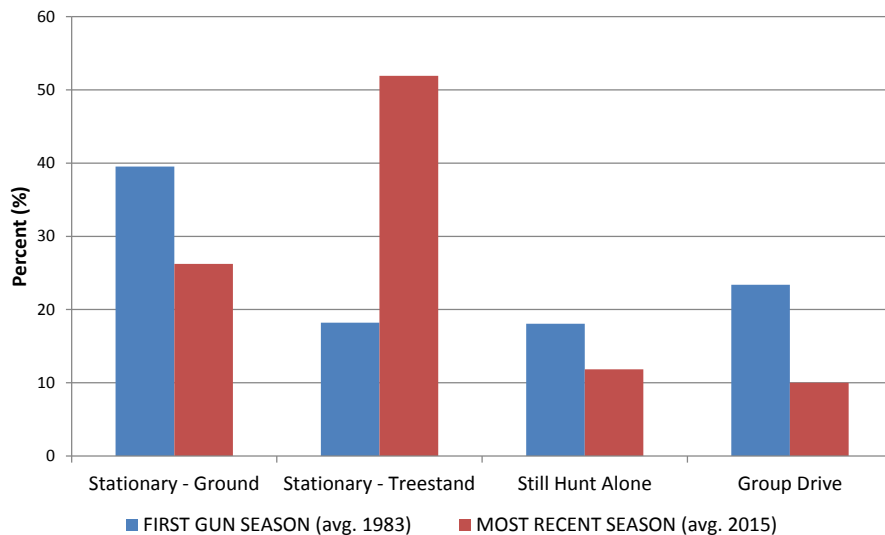


FIGURE 20: PROPORTION OF HUNTERS EMPLOYING STATIONARY AND MOBILE HUNTING METHODS DURING THEIR FIRST-EVER AND MOST RECENT GUN SEASONS

Data collected from 2,148 respondents to the 2015-16 deer hunter survey who indicated they have hunted during the gun season within the last five years and have 20+ years of hunting experience in Ohio.



POPULATION GOAL SETTING SURVEYS

Deer population goals were revised in the fall of 2015. Historically, this process has involved only rural landowners, and most recently farmers. However, deer hunter opinions were also considered in this most recent survey. Both production landowners and hunters were asked to answer the same question: In the area that you hunt/farm, are there too many, too few, or just about the right number of deer? We

sent 18,500 surveys to a randomly selected group of deer permit buyers and received 6,640 useable responses, for roughly a 36% return rate. Statewide, 50% of hunters reported too few, 5% reported too many, and 40% of hunters said that the deer population in the area they hunt the most was just about right. We mailed surveys to a random sample of production landowners totaling nearly 17,000, and received near-

ly 10,000 completed surveys, a 60% response rate. Statewide, 29% of farmers believed there to be too many deer, 14% reported too few, and 50% said that the deer population was just about right. Considering the opinions of both groups, our plans are to manage for moderate herd growth in most parts of the state with the intent of trying to find that deer population that will yield equal proportions of hunters and farmers reporting too few and too many deer, respectively.

Figure 21 provides a regional perspective on the desired management direction of deer populations. A majority of the state (shaded light green in Figure 21) shows a desire for a moderate herd increase, with an average of 28% of farmers and 46% of hunters reporting “too many” and “too few” deer, respectively. Alternatively, social tolerances suggest room for more substantial herd growth in the northeast corner of the state as well as in some of the more agricultural portions of western Ohio, with an average of 24% of farmers and 56% of hunters reporting “too many” and “too few” deer, respectively in these regions.

The general feeling among many hunters is that most farmers hold an extremely negative opinion towards deer. However, our recent survey of nearly 10,000 farmers revealed that only 12% of them regard deer as a nuisance (Figure 22). In fact, nearly 50% of farmers reported that they enjoy seeing and having deer around, and an additional 35% said that even though they may worry about the problems deer can cause, they enjoy seeing and having at least a few deer around. That most of Ohio’s farmers generally have a positive attitude about deer is evident in the lack of complaints that we receive each year. Only 3.5% of Ohio’s farmers reported having received a damage permit in 2015, and most (72%) indicated they allow hunting on their property. At an average farm size of 430 acres and an average of five hunters per property, we found the hunter density on hunted farms to be about 1 hunter per 100 acres. When asked their feelings on the number of hunters hunting their property, most (81%) indicated they had the right number of hunters, 7% said they had too many, and only 4% of farmers felt as though they could use more hunters on their property.

FIGURE 21: MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR VARIOUS REGIONS IN OHIO, BASED ON PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS AND HUNTERS REPORTING “TOO MANY” AND “TOO FEW” DEER, RESPECTIVELY, ON THE 2015 GOAL-SETTING SURVEYS
Average responses for each region are provided in the legend

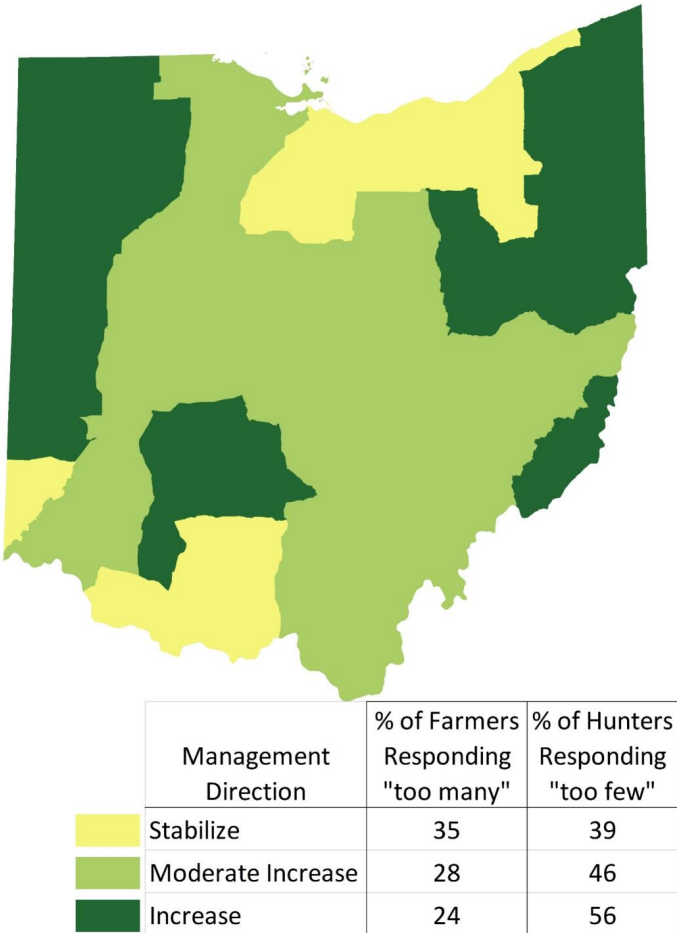
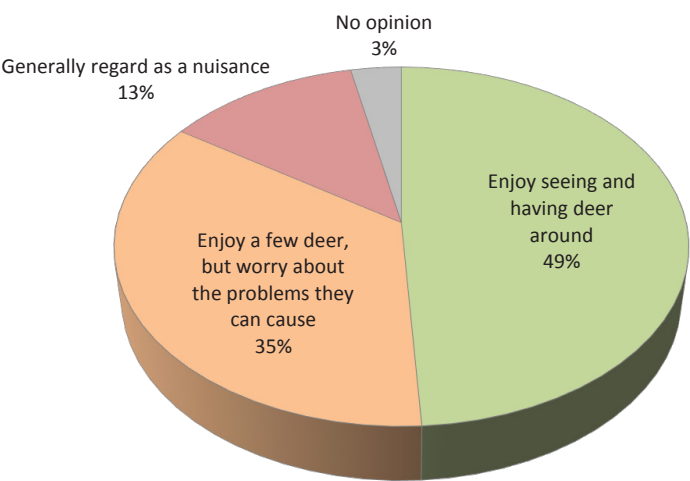


FIGURE 22: FARMER ATTITUDES TOWARDS DEER
Data collected from 9,984 respondents to the 2015 production landowner survey. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, there are an estimated 66,125 farms in Ohio



UNDERSTANDING DEER POPULATION TRENDS

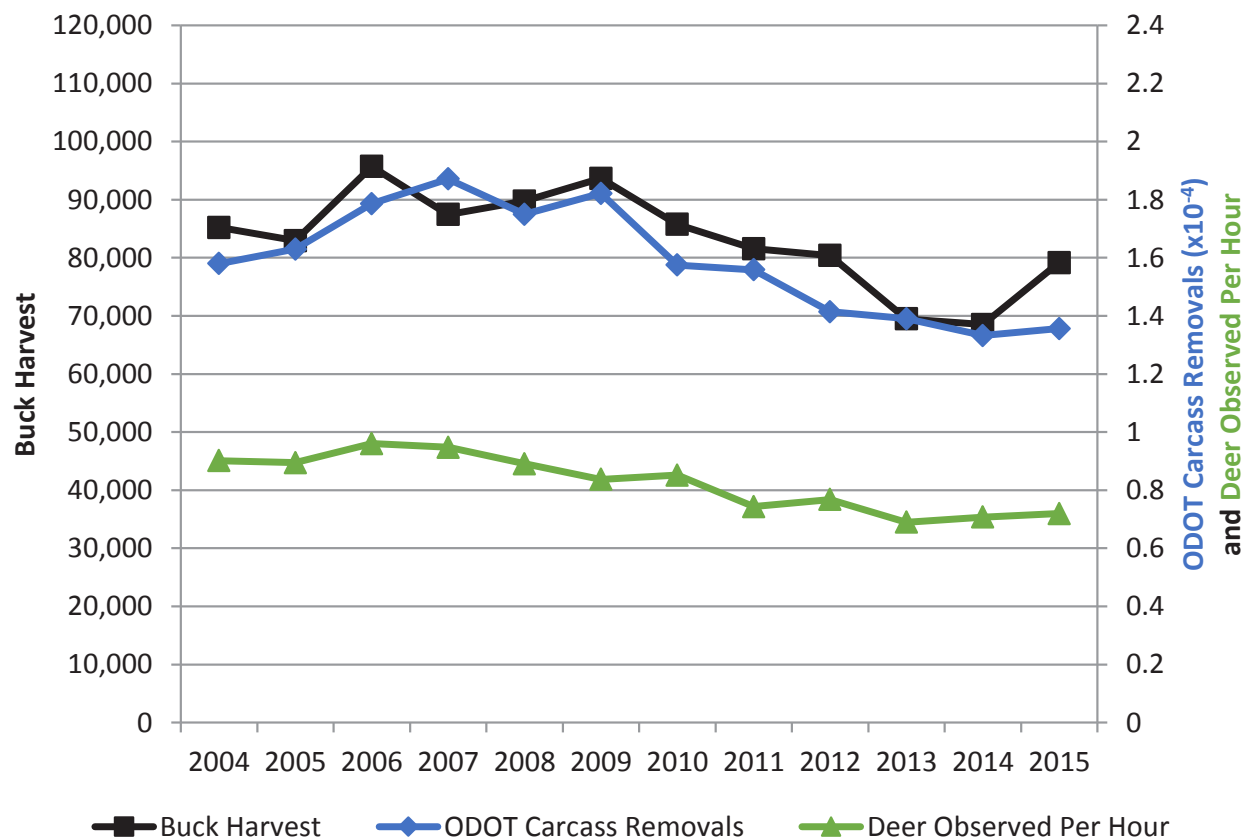
While we don't routinely count deer, we do monitor trends that reflect changes in the deer population. Some of the trends we use are the number of bucks harvested, carcasses removed from roadways, deer seen per hour, and days to harvest a deer. Rather than direct population estimates, each of these measures serve as an index to the size of the population over a period of time. In other words, they change when the deer population changes. Contrary to popular belief, we do not have to know exactly how many deer are on the landscape to properly manage the population. Rather, we only need to know whether the population is stable, increasing, or decreasing and whether its current size is at, above, or below goal. These indices provide this valuable information.

Though buck harvest is used as the primary index of deer population size, there are many variables that can influence the annual buck harvest such as weather, standing crops, mast availability, hunter participation and effort, permit types and restrictions on their use, and even harvest regulations. For this reason, we also rely on data that are completely independent of hunter harvest, such as carcasses removed from Ohio's major roadways. As deer populations

grow, encounters with traffic increase and ultimately more deer are removed from roadways. Carcass removals have proven to be a much better index of deer populations than deer-vehicle collisions since counts of carcasses do not involve reports, insurance companies, or law enforcement staff time. We also rely heavily on our annual hunter surveys. In the annual Deer Hunter Effort and Harvest Survey hunters provide information regarding their effort (number of days hunted), harvest, and opinions of the deer population in the area they hunt. Finally, participants in the annual Bowhunter Survey record time spent hunting and number of deer seen on each hunting trip. Collectively these data allow biologists to determine if the population is stable, growing, or declining and, more importantly, its position relative to goal. Figure 23 illustrates how bowhunter observations and carcass removals can be used with, or even in place of, the annual buck harvest to monitor population trends. If you would like to take an active role in the management of Ohio's deer herd, we encourage anyone interested in participating in the annual Bowhunter Survey to contact us by phone at 1-800-WILD-LIFE or via email at wildinfo@dnr.state.oh.us.

FIGURE 23: STATEWIDE DEER POPULATION TRENDS

Data collected from the annual reported buck harvest, carcasses removed from Ohio roadways by ODOT, and deer observed per hour of hunting as reported by participants in the annual bowhunter survey, 2004-2015



APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Adams	Gun	438	567	574	876	122	142	1134	1585	39.8
	Crossbow	402	504	335	452	59	82	796	1038	30.4
	Vertical Bow	406	436	354	356	51	60	811	852	5.1
	Early Muzzleloader	5	-	122	-	15	-	142	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	59	-	132	-	18	-	209	-
	Muzzleloader	83	84	167	165	27	25	277	274	-1.1
	Youth	55	95	41	56	7	19	103	170	65.0
	Total	1396	1756	1602	2052	282	349	3280	4157	26.7
Allen	Gun	148	146	158	189	42	52	348	387	11.2
	Crossbow	118	143	149	164	43	51	310	358	15.5
	Vertical Bow	96	99	113	113	20	26	229	238	3.9
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	36	-	5	-	41	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	7	-	10	-	4	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	19	21	28	14	10	10	57	45	-21.1
	Youth	15	23	12	13	5	8	32	44	37.5
	Total	401	442	500	509	127	151	1028	1102	7.2
Ashland	Gun	391	403	627	663	142	166	1160	1232	6.2
	Crossbow	297	346	329	313	77	86	703	745	6.0
	Vertical Bow	222	228	238	243	36	41	496	512	3.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	113	-	28	-	141	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	44	-	82	-	16	-	142	-
	Muzzleloader	54	58	163	141	36	25	253	224	-11.5
	Youth	53	69	51	61	23	19	127	149	17.3
	Total	1022	1156	1539	1515	343	355	2904	3026	4.2
Ashtabula	Gun	568	635	918	1093	244	274	1730	2002	15.7
	Crossbow	496	578	576	680	167	168	1239	1426	15.1
	Vertical Bow	251	261	348	332	92	69	691	662	-4.2
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	183	-	42	-	228	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	74	-	181	-	50	-	305	-
	Muzzleloader	87	63	186	159	50	48	323	270	-16.4
	Youth	60	54	71	65	36	28	167	147	-12.0
	Total	1475	1680	2304	2521	639	643	4418	4844	9.6
Athens	Gun	494	687	720	824	146	155	1360	1666	22.5
	Crossbow	324	477	284	298	39	49	647	824	27.4
	Vertical Bow	360	429	303	255	51	30	714	714	0.0
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	113	-	18	-	133	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	65	-	134	-	13	-	212	-
	Muzzleloader	117	101	178	223	40	33	335	357	6.6
	Youth	52	96	42	57	10	16	104	169	62.5
	Total	1355	1870	1657	1812	305	297	3317	3979	20.0

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Auglaize	Gun	94	108	140	149	44	42	278	299	7.6
	Crossbow	97	103	98	117	22	22	217	242	11.5
	Vertical Bow	79	58	65	62	17	17	161	137	-14.9
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	28	-	14	-	42	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	12	-	23	-	3	-	38	-
	Muzzleloader	13	14	18	27	7	8	38	49	28.9
	Youth	15	20	17	25	11	7	43	52	20.9
	Total	301	318	370	409	116	101	787	828	5.2
Belmont	Gun	550	603	778	815	100	98	1428	1516	6.2
	Crossbow	360	377	265	246	47	25	672	648	-3.6
	Vertical Bow	224	198	165	135	16	12	405	345	-14.8
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	68	-	7	-	75	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	62	-	133	-	21	-	216	-
	Muzzleloader	108	104	256	153	29	26	393	283	-28.0
	Youth	76	112	47	52	12	3	135	167	23.7
	Total	1329	1467	1588	1550	213	188	3130	3205	2.4
Brown	Gun	311	386	515	549	114	119	940	1054	12.1
	Crossbow	281	294	288	285	39	37	608	616	1.3
	Vertical Bow	256	260	309	291	35	25	600	576	-4.0
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	76	-	11	-	88	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	41	-	102	-	19	-	162	-
	Muzzleloader	74	60	140	143	31	18	245	221	-9.8
	Youth	57	53	27	37	14	10	98	100	2.0
	Total	989	1105	1361	1420	246	229	2596	2754	6.1
Butler	Gun	113	143	157	151	38	44	308	338	9.7
	Crossbow	215	245	222	226	70	40	507	511	0.8
	Vertical Bow	162	179	201	170	28	29	391	378	-3.3
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	52	-	7	-	62	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	20	-	27	-	4	-	51	-
	Muzzleloader	27	24	51	43	7	5	85	72	-15.3
	Youth	16	13	11	8	4	4	31	25	-19.4
	Total	539	626	699	627	154	129	1392	1382	-0.7
Carroll	Gun	491	583	819	792	167	201	1477	1576	6.7
	Crossbow	420	460	318	327	75	53	813	840	3.3
	Vertical Bow	222	260	217	189	29	27	468	476	1.7
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	109	-	23	-	133	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	57	-	122	-	32	-	211	-
	Muzzleloader	95	85	198	160	48	32	341	277	-18.8
	Youth	56	81	66	42	23	17	145	140	-3.4
	Total	1297	1539	1739	1651	370	367	3406	3557	4.4

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Champaign	Gun	162	150	222	211	50	58	434	419	-3.5
	Crossbow	162	169	152	151	36	25	350	345	-1.4
	Vertical Bow	131	134	161	137	32	32	324	303	-6.5
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	46	-	5	-	51	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	12	-	25	-	4	-	41	-
	Muzzleloader	34	25	47	35	2	12	83	72	-13.3
	Youth	32	32	20	13	12	2	64	47	-26.6
	Total	525	531	653	578	139	133	1317	1242	-5.7
Clark	Gun	76	90	98	89	21	28	195	207	6.2
	Crossbow	110	121	108	110	27	19	245	250	2.0
	Vertical Bow	88	101	110	92	13	15	211	208	-1.4
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	33	-	4	-	39	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	8	-	11	-	2	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	12	10	17	27	4	4	33	41	24.2
	Youth	10	15	6	4	7	1	23	20	-13.0
	Total	301	352	377	337	77	70	755	759	0.5
Clermont	Gun	243	264	359	420	83	92	685	776	13.3
	Crossbow	375	389	435	431	71	93	881	913	3.6
	Vertical Bow	310	319	427	400	60	55	797	774	-2.9
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	61	-	14	-	76	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	30	-	53	-	12	-	95	-
	Muzzleloader	43	48	104	101	21	24	168	173	3.0
	Youth	36	39	25	22	7	4	68	65	-4.4
	Total	1011	1098	1421	1440	259	283	2691	2821	4.8
Clinton	Gun	109	122	131	137	45	33	285	292	2.5
	Crossbow	127	99	118	80	32	18	277	197	-28.9
	Vertical Bow	89	89	102	60	24	7	215	156	-27.4
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	30	-	9	-	39	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	12	-	23	-	2	-	37	-
	Muzzleloader	20	22	37	32	7	10	64	64	0.0
	Youth	17	16	8	16	6	5	31	37	19.4
	Total	364	361	427	352	124	76	915	789	-13.8
Columbiana	Gun	458	549	637	738	150	171	1245	1458	17.1
	Crossbow	379	458	339	356	69	71	787	885	12.5
	Vertical Bow	191	180	213	180	22	26	426	386	-9.4
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	145	-	35	-	180	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	57	-	118	-	21	-	196	-
	Muzzleloader	55	58	121	131	30	33	206	222	7.8
	Youth	56	54	48	49	17	19	121	122	0.8
	Total	1152	1367	1516	1586	328	346	2996	3299	10.1

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Coshocton	Gun	799	860	1257	1303	252	256	2308	2419	4.8
	Crossbow	684	693	555	527	87	104	1326	1324	-0.2
	Vertical Bow	510	478	464	324	67	44	1041	846	-18.7
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	143	-	33	-	177	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	90	-	204	-	55	-	349	-
	Muzzleloader	158	132	319	242	76	51	553	425	-23.1
	Youth	129	135	117	80	36	43	282	258	-8.5
	Total	2291	2417	2882	2723	556	560	5729	5700	-0.5
Crawford	Gun	216	230	234	259	65	87	515	576	11.8
	Crossbow	101	138	109	107	31	26	241	271	12.4
	Vertical Bow	66	75	83	74	13	11	162	160	-1.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	30	-	11	-	41	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	16	-	33	-	10	-	59	-
	Muzzleloader	17	11	32	31	10	8	59	50	-15.3
	Youth	18	18	29	11	9	8	56	37	-33.9
	Total	421	492	524	521	139	152	1084	1165	7.5
Cuyahoga	Gun	8	13	9	27	7	6	24	46	91.7
	Crossbow	173	204	239	272	40	57	452	533	17.9
	Vertical Bow	73	78	138	120	28	31	239	229	-4.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	4	-	0	-	4	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	1	-
	Muzzleloader	1	0	1	2	1	1	3	3	0.0
	Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	256	297	394	422	76	95	726	814	12.1
Darke	Gun	99	95	106	136	36	51	241	282	17.0
	Crossbow	81	101	99	100	22	27	202	228	12.9
	Vertical Bow	55	68	100	67	19	13	174	148	-14.9
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	34	-	6	-	41	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	8	-	7	-	4	-	19	-
	Muzzleloader	13	12	13	15	2	7	28	34	21.4
	Youth	19	13	12	5	8	3	39	21	-46.2
	Total	269	298	367	333	94	107	730	738	1.1
Defiance	Gun	331	313	406	442	134	110	871	865	-0.7
	Crossbow	139	130	174	186	46	54	359	370	3.1
	Vertical Bow	113	107	104	136	36	32	253	275	8.7
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	55	-	9	-	65	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	22	-	43	-	9	-	74	-
	Muzzleloader	29	23	54	53	14	16	97	92	-5.2
	Youth	30	40	31	25	5	10	66	75	13.6
	Total	645	640	831	894	248	233	1724	1767	2.5

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Delaware	Gun	164	171	199	198	59	49	422	418	-0.9
	Crossbow	240	239	257	284	54	60	551	583	5.8
	Vertical Bow	177	189	240	257	36	38	453	484	6.8
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	53	-	9	-	64	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	18	-	36	-	6	-	60	-
	Muzzleloader	17	22	29	48	7	11	53	81	52.8
	Youth	14	22	12	13	4	7	30	42	40.0
	Total	620	666	796	846	170	172	1586	1684	6.2
Erie	Gun	71	74	118	87	30	31	219	192	-12.3
	Crossbow	148	140	122	121	31	29	301	290	-3.7
	Vertical Bow	71	60	59	45	23	11	153	116	-24.2
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	25	-	4	-	30	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	10	-	10	-	1	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	12	3	22	13	3	2	37	18	-51.4
	Youth	10	10	7	4	2	3	19	17	-10.5
	Total	386	328	449	330	116	92	951	750	-21.1
Fairfield	Gun	276	275	346	397	86	88	708	760	7.3
	Crossbow	231	261	198	206	56	41	485	508	4.7
	Vertical Bow	186	204	216	169	28	26	430	399	-7.2
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	75	-	5	-	81	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	26	-	48	-	11	-	85	-
	Muzzleloader	43	33	81	65	17	13	141	111	-21.3
	Youth	37	44	25	28	6	7	68	79	16.2
	Total	782	850	949	918	200	187	1931	1955	1.2
Fayette	Gun	53	68	77	49	12	8	142	125	-12.0
	Crossbow	49	37	33	31	4	5	86	73	-15.1
	Vertical Bow	52	42	46	21	7	5	105	68	-35.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	12	-	0	-	12	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	4	-	4	-	2	-	10	-
	Muzzleloader	10	3	7	7	3	1	20	11	-45.0
	Youth	5	11	2	6	3	1	10	18	80.0
	Total	172	167	178	121	30	22	380	310	-18.4
Franklin	Gun	49	48	65	71	10	14	124	133	7.3
	Crossbow	145	148	136	179	40	27	321	354	10.3
	Vertical Bow	98	109	144	143	27	15	269	267	-0.7
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	21	-	8	-	29	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	5	-	15	-	4	-	24	-
	Muzzleloader	12	5	14	15	3	3	29	23	-20.7
	Youth	8	3	4	4	1	1	13	8	-38.5
	Total	314	322	386	431	91	64	791	817	3.3

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Fulton	Gun	153	150	156	166	27	45	336	361	7.4
	Crossbow	86	117	83	93	30	29	199	239	20.1
	Vertical Bow	56	51	52	67	14	10	122	128	4.9
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	22	-	2	-	26	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	3	-	8	-	5	-	16	-
	Muzzleloader	2	6	16	11	5	4	23	21	-8.7
	Youth	9	16	15	9	0	5	24	30	25.0
	Total	310	347	346	356	80	99	736	802	9.0
Gallia	Gun	449	546	643	814	128	163	1220	1523	24.8
	Crossbow	248	311	195	178	31	21	474	510	7.6
	Vertical Bow	212	228	151	120	20	22	383	370	-3.4
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	84	-	7	-	93	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	52	-	99	-	14	-	165	-
	Muzzleloader	80	69	184	124	17	11	281	204	-27.4
	Youth	48	82	38	35	6	7	92	124	34.8
	Total	1046	1300	1307	1374	211	240	2564	2914	13.7
Geauga	Gun	150	190	236	255	84	63	470	508	8.1
	Crossbow	278	339	375	320	95	84	748	743	-0.7
	Vertical Bow	143	166	223	189	48	61	414	416	0.5
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	49	-	10	-	60	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	17	-	46	-	14	-	77	-
	Muzzleloader	23	23	54	49	17	11	94	83	-11.7
	Youth	19	15	19	19	8	5	46	39	-15.2
	Total	623	755	971	889	265	242	1859	1886	1.5
Greene	Gun	98	90	95	99	20	31	213	220	3.3
	Crossbow	136	138	123	130	22	26	281	294	4.6
	Vertical Bow	118	101	114	111	24	17	256	229	-10.5
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	16	-	4	-	20	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	5	-	10	-	6	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	14	15	25	29	9	5	48	49	2.1
	Youth	14	10	10	7	1	1	25	18	-28.0
	Total	382	361	387	388	81	86	850	835	-1.8
Guernsey	Gun	591	722	978	1048	219	225	1788	1995	11.6
	Crossbow	477	573	438	400	85	60	1000	1033	3.3
	Vertical Bow	297	319	294	227	37	32	628	578	-8.0
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	129	-	20	-	150	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	95	-	147	-	21	-	263	-
	Muzzleloader	100	106	257	196	38	41	395	343	-13.2
	Youth	87	105	77	63	27	20	191	188	-1.6
	Total	1565	1932	2187	2103	430	400	4182	4435	6.0

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Hamilton	Gun	63	90	84	138	18	24	165	252	52.7
	Crossbow	279	363	398	469	74	87	751	919	22.4
	Vertical Bow	256	256	414	419	73	73	743	748	0.7
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	17	-	2	-	19	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	9	-	8	-	4	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	17	15	19	24	4	3	40	42	5.0
	Youth	9	6	7	4	2	3	18	13	-27.8
	Total	627	743	943	1067	173	197	1743	2007	15.1
Hancock	Gun	192	211	202	208	49	67	443	486	9.7
	Crossbow	146	165	118	119	31	22	295	306	3.7
	Vertical Bow	109	125	105	104	19	19	233	248	6.4
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	26	-	6	-	33	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	13	-	17	-	4	-	34	-
	Muzzleloader	21	16	35	24	7	9	63	49	-22.2
	Youth	14	27	23	17	5	6	42	50	19.0
	Total	486	564	512	493	119	128	1117	1185	6.1
Hardin	Gun	204	206	218	262	65	74	487	542	11.3
	Crossbow	107	112	95	134	32	32	234	278	18.8
	Vertical Bow	95	89	122	121	16	28	233	238	2.1
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	34	-	8	-	42	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	17	-	30	-	6	-	53	-
	Muzzleloader	33	30	58	49	8	8	99	87	-12.1
	Youth	22	31	22	19	3	8	47	58	23.4
	Total	462	493	554	620	133	157	1149	1270	10.5
Harrison	Gun	503	622	813	874	175	168	1491	1664	11.6
	Crossbow	412	492	366	331	55	57	833	880	5.6
	Vertical Bow	254	264	249	216	28	28	531	508	-4.3
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	102	-	11	-	115	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	83	-	125	-	20	-	228	-
	Muzzleloader	82	89	199	182	40	22	321	293	-8.7
	Youth	50	115	52	57	25	11	127	183	44.1
	Total	1316	1674	1797	1801	335	313	3448	3788	9.9
Henry	Gun	132	158	154	162	48	45	334	365	9.3
	Crossbow	60	68	69	59	22	13	151	140	-7.3
	Vertical Bow	51	47	56	46	15	12	122	105	-13.9
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	24	-	4	-	28	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	10	-	12	-	3	-	25	-
	Muzzleloader	8	5	19	14	5	0	32	19	-40.6
	Youth	11	10	11	9	4	1	26	20	-23.1
	Total	265	302	334	305	98	77	697	684	-1.9

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Highland	Gun	363	397	530	641	111	151	1004	1189	18.4
	Crossbow	295	323	273	313	56	69	624	705	13.0
	Vertical Bow	266	223	242	244	50	45	558	512	-8.2
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	79	-	18	-	100	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	49	-	81	-	17	-	147	-
	Muzzleloader	63	57	149	126	31	31	243	214	-11.9
	Youth	50	77	50	50	14	5	114	132	15.8
	Total	1047	1133	1334	1467	281	319	2662	2919	9.7
Hocking	Gun	420	606	623	824	152	162	1195	1592	33.2
	Crossbow	352	461	249	326	50	78	651	865	32.9
	Vertical Bow	308	314	193	243	37	39	538	596	10.8
	Early Muzzleloader	5	-	92	-	12	-	109	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	58	-	124	-	21	-	203	-
	Muzzleloader	85	101	172	176	27	42	284	319	12.3
	Youth	29	73	34	41	8	11	71	125	76.1
	Total	1201	1622	1370	1749	287	356	2858	3727	30.4
Holmes	Gun	462	455	717	728	170	179	1349	1362	1.0
	Crossbow	424	493	457	415	76	80	957	988	3.2
	Vertical Bow	295	294	359	325	40	40	694	659	-5.0
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	88	-	14	-	103	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	73	-	114	-	22	-	209	-
	Muzzleloader	80	73	152	162	32	24	264	259	-1.9
	Youth	110	100	69	67	39	36	218	203	-6.9
	Total	1380	1505	1864	1829	382	384	3626	3718	2.5
Huron	Gun	337	321	444	536	140	149	921	1006	9.2
	Crossbow	179	257	219	230	57	44	455	531	16.7
	Vertical Bow	133	140	162	152	38	35	333	327	-1.8
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	83	-	12	-	96	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	34	-	56	-	17	-	107	-
	Muzzleloader	35	32	91	71	21	24	147	127	-13.6
	Youth	39	47	41	20	16	18	96	85	-11.5
	Total	725	838	1052	1076	287	290	2064	2204	6.8
Jackson	Gun	334	491	530	708	104	124	968	1323	36.7
	Crossbow	340	386	240	286	48	53	628	725	15.4
	Vertical Bow	252	307	237	182	23	29	512	518	1.2
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	71	-	12	-	85	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	55	-	115	-	24	-	194	-
	Muzzleloader	80	79	140	172	29	23	249	274	10.0
	Youth	43	79	47	41	9	15	99	135	36.4
	Total	1057	1405	1278	1521	225	268	2560	3194	24.8

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Jefferson	Gun	437	491	595	582	88	96	1120	1169	4.4
	Crossbow	315	341	222	200	36	25	573	566	-1.2
	Vertical Bow	213	248	173	134	20	14	406	396	-2.5
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	65	-	8	-	75	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	48	-	106	-	15	-	169	-
	Muzzleloader	76	58	157	137	33	16	266	211	-20.7
	Youth	56	79	41	27	10	11	107	117	9.3
	Total	1104	1283	1266	1202	195	178	2565	2663	3.8
Knox	Gun	606	633	914	905	207	217	1727	1755	1.6
	Crossbow	459	511	463	481	100	101	1022	1093	6.9
	Vertical Bow	376	397	325	396	54	56	755	849	12.5
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	117	-	24	-	143	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	76	-	134	-	26	-	236	-
	Muzzleloader	90	80	177	185	44	44	311	309	-0.6
	Youth	84	82	91	75	32	25	207	182	-12.1
	Total	1625	1796	2105	2195	463	474	4193	4465	6.5
Lake	Gun	57	64	65	76	16	20	138	160	15.9
	Crossbow	177	183	245	236	50	62	472	481	1.9
	Vertical Bow	63	75	125	111	29	17	217	203	-6.5
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	22	-	2	-	25	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	7	-	14	-	0	-	21	-
	Muzzleloader	7	8	15	17	8	3	30	28	-6.7
	Youth	5	7	1	1	2	0	8	8	0.0
	Total	313	347	477	458	107	103	897	908	1.2
Lawrence	Gun	335	416	384	526	60	78	779	1020	30.9
	Crossbow	211	230	147	129	22	20	380	379	-0.3
	Vertical Bow	169	224	143	119	11	11	323	354	9.6
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	52	-	2	-	56	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	54	-	79	-	14	-	147	-
	Muzzleloader	53	54	103	67	17	8	173	129	-25.4
	Youth	45	41	25	20	5	8	75	69	-8.0
	Total	817	1024	858	949	117	140	1792	2113	17.9
Licking	Gun	581	636	883	993	191	236	1655	1865	12.7
	Crossbow	727	753	726	718	163	140	1616	1611	-0.3
	Vertical Bow	520	452	627	553	97	90	1244	1095	-12.0
	Early Muzzleloader	5	-	133	-	26	-	164	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	57	-	147	-	32	-	236	-
	Muzzleloader	105	93	241	193	44	36	390	322	-17.4
	Youth	81	98	61	64	26	20	168	182	8.3
	Total	2038	2109	2698	2698	551	558	5287	5365	1.5

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COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Logan	Gun	245	295	336	367	91	103	672	765	13.8
	Crossbow	186	213	225	253	54	59	465	525	12.9
	Vertical Bow	187	186	221	238	24	32	432	456	5.6
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	78	-	24	-	102	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	26	-	46	-	14	-	86	-
	Muzzleloader	44	45	58	83	26	16	128	144	12.5
	Youth	40	47	24	26	12	9	76	82	7.9
	Total	704	815	950	1021	232	235	1886	2071	9.8
Lorain	Gun	227	236	329	327	90	74	646	637	-1.4
	Crossbow	450	464	475	483	113	137	1038	1084	4.4
	Vertical Bow	169	181	202	236	32	41	403	458	13.6
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	92	-	20	-	115	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	26	-	55	-	17	-	98	-
	Muzzleloader	33	25	69	61	24	18	126	104	-17.5
	Youth	27	30	15	17	13	9	55	56	1.8
	Total	914	974	1195	1187	294	298	2403	2459	2.3
Lucas	Gun	42	50	47	53	16	10	105	113	7.6
	Crossbow	104	133	170	204	50	61	324	398	22.8
	Vertical Bow	55	70	103	87	20	32	178	189	6.2
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	13	-	5	-	19	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	3	-	4	-	3	-	10	-
	Muzzleloader	10	10	11	9	2	5	23	24	4.3
	Youth	2	5	2	8	0	2	4	15	275.0
	Total	214	277	348	369	93	113	655	759	15.9
Madison	Gun	50	64	89	67	15	16	154	147	-4.5
	Crossbow	73	83	62	39	10	18	145	140	-3.4
	Vertical Bow	71	67	50	54	7	11	128	132	3.1
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	14	-	0	-	14	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	8	-	13	-	5	-	26	-
	Muzzleloader	11	11	19	13	1	3	31	27	-12.9
	Youth	10	9	6	7	1	3	17	19	11.8
	Total	217	244	242	196	34	57	493	497	0.8
Mahoning	Gun	190	172	272	294	93	90	555	556	0.2
	Crossbow	331	319	323	263	110	84	764	666	-12.8
	Vertical Bow	128	128	177	138	39	42	344	308	-10.5
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	87	-	12	-	100	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	27	-	62	-	18	-	107	-
	Muzzleloader	32	36	94	61	15	12	141	109	-22.7
	Youth	22	25	24	25	17	15	63	65	3.2
	Total	709	713	994	859	288	263	1991	1835	-7.8

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Marion	Gun	129	149	161	177	50	37	340	363	6.8
	Crossbow	92	104	93	83	19	24	204	211	3.4
	Vertical Bow	79	74	73	75	15	15	167	164	-1.8
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	24	-	3	-	27	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	22	-	26	-	7	-	55	-
	Muzzleloader	17	27	22	22	6	5	45	54	20.0
	Youth	14	15	11	11	6	5	31	31	0.0
	Total	331	395	388	401	100	96	819	892	8.9
Medina	Gun	201	191	295	273	71	81	567	545	-3.9
	Crossbow	367	337	386	314	100	80	853	731	-14.3
	Vertical Bow	131	174	175	150	40	24	346	348	0.6
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	64	-	16	-	80	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	29	-	42	-	12	-	83	-
	Muzzleloader	31	26	70	57	13	24	114	107	-6.1
	Youth	16	18	18	16	6	4	40	38	-5.0
	Total	748	785	1017	859	248	229	2013	1873	-7.0
Meigs	Gun	448	649	691	760	131	135	1270	1544	21.6
	Crossbow	326	417	244	286	41	43	611	746	22.1
	Vertical Bow	271	313	250	199	29	15	550	527	-4.2
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	119	-	6	-	128	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	77	-	119	-	33	-	229	-
	Muzzleloader	126	98	239	219	39	38	404	355	-12.1
	Youth	76	111	52	48	15	12	143	171	19.6
	Total	1256	1677	1606	1638	263	277	3125	3592	14.9
Mercer	Gun	81	98	101	104	24	33	206	235	14.1
	Crossbow	68	59	63	73	23	15	154	147	-4.5
	Vertical Bow	40	50	68	69	14	16	122	135	10.7
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	24	-	10	-	36	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	5	-	10	-	3	-	18	-
	Muzzleloader	12	3	13	13	4	1	29	17	-41.4
	Youth	11	18	16	18	5	11	32	47	46.9
	Total	214	236	289	288	80	79	583	603	3.4
Miami	Gun	99	97	119	108	32	30	250	235	-6.0
	Crossbow	113	118	103	137	31	31	247	286	15.8
	Vertical Bow	104	96	102	94	21	18	227	208	-8.4
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	29	-	4	-	34	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	12	-	20	-	5	-	37	-
	Muzzleloader	10	6	23	20	4	3	37	29	-21.6
	Youth	17	14	9	11	9	4	35	29	-17.1
	Total	345	349	388	393	102	91	835	833	-0.2

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Monroe	Gun	391	523	549	655	116	138	1056	1316	24.6
	Crossbow	250	301	176	174	33	23	459	498	8.5
	Vertical Bow	117	139	103	71	9	13	229	223	-2.6
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	53	-	6	-	59	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	51	-	88	-	17	-	156	-
	Muzzleloader	78	59	137	174	29	23	244	256	4.9
	Youth	53	70	29	44	14	14	96	128	33.3
	Total	898	1151	1054	1219	210	228	2162	2598	20.2
Montgomery	Gun	48	45	60	62	22	21	130	128	-1.5
	Crossbow	127	122	154	134	32	24	313	280	-10.5
	Vertical Bow	87	81	143	121	29	19	259	221	-14.7
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	23	-	2	-	25	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	6	-	7	-	1	-	14	-
	Muzzleloader	10	9	19	18	4	2	33	29	-12.1
	Youth	9	4	3	2	2	1	14	7	-50.0
	Total	282	267	406	348	92	69	780	684	-12.3
Morgan	Gun	401	522	666	740	140	156	1207	1418	17.5
	Crossbow	258	332	225	217	60	38	543	587	8.1
	Vertical Bow	254	264	236	158	30	27	520	449	-13.7
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	91	-	15	-	108	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	56	-	98	-	27	-	181	-
	Muzzleloader	87	77	198	161	31	35	316	273	-13.6
	Youth	48	80	43	48	12	15	103	143	38.8
	Total	1056	1343	1476	1448	290	305	2822	3096	9.7
Morrow	Gun	256	203	338	296	77	85	671	584	-13.0
	Crossbow	202	205	149	144	42	37	393	386	-1.8
	Vertical Bow	128	123	108	85	25	30	261	238	-8.8
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	42	-	12	-	56	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	27	-	35	-	9	-	71	-
	Muzzleloader	23	22	54	57	11	9	88	88	0.0
	Youth	17	33	28	12	10	7	55	52	-5.5
	Total	629	620	729	638	179	179	1537	1437	-6.5
Muskingum	Gun	744	851	1069	1195	271	237	2084	2283	9.5
	Crossbow	524	586	392	354	76	60	992	1000	0.8
	Vertical Bow	455	429	376	313	42	32	873	774	-11.3
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	122	-	11	-	136	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	87	-	166	-	31	-	284	-
	Muzzleloader	134	119	263	224	48	41	445	384	-13.7
	Youth	94	113	73	67	20	20	187	200	7.0
	Total	1964	2195	2315	2347	471	424	4750	4966	4.5

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Noble	Gun	371	510	557	677	103	146	1031	1333	29.3
	Crossbow	289	331	222	262	49	59	560	652	16.4
	Vertical Bow	203	211	149	137	26	15	378	363	-4.0
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	63	-	15	-	79	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	68	-	107	-	27	-	202	-
	Muzzleloader	103	80	139	161	30	29	272	270	-0.7
	Youth	44	69	26	36	8	9	78	114	46.2
	Total	1021	1286	1166	1397	232	287	2419	2970	22.8
Ottawa	Gun	42	36	65	42	14	19	121	97	-19.8
	Crossbow	91	85	96	99	22	27	209	211	1.0
	Vertical Bow	37	28	44	20	10	11	91	59	-35.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	21	-	3	-	24	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	1	-	6	-	0	-	7	-
	Muzzleloader	8	12	12	15	4	1	24	28	16.7
	Youth	11	10	2	5	1	3	14	18	28.6
	Total	190	175	242	187	56	62	488	424	-13.1
Paulding	Gun	180	176	263	282	66	65	509	523	2.8
	Crossbow	102	101	88	115	25	22	215	238	10.7
	Vertical Bow	65	66	102	87	19	13	186	166	-10.8
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	48	-	5	-	53	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	11	-	15	-	8	-	34	-
	Muzzleloader	21	14	30	25	11	8	62	47	-24.2
	Youth	20	19	12	23	10	7	42	49	16.7
	Total	389	391	546	550	137	123	1072	1064	-0.7
Perry	Gun	429	519	611	674	120	147	1160	1340	15.5
	Crossbow	283	364	191	197	50	39	524	600	14.5
	Vertical Bow	192	229	177	135	23	25	392	389	-0.8
	Early Muzzleloader	4	-	74	-	14	-	92	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	56	-	104	-	21	-	181	-
	Muzzleloader	60	58	140	117	29	26	229	201	-12.2
	Youth	46	81	25	33	12	14	83	128	54.2
	Total	1019	1319	1226	1274	250	274	2495	2867	14.9
Pickaway	Gun	148	152	148	159	34	34	330	345	4.5
	Crossbow	90	93	83	63	16	14	189	170	-10.1
	Vertical Bow	68	77	79	74	13	6	160	157	-1.9
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	23	-	0	-	23	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	11	-	24	-	3	-	38	-
	Muzzleloader	16	23	52	17	9	4	77	44	-42.9
	Youth	10	20	9	15	4	6	23	41	78.3
	Total	333	379	397	355	76	69	806	803	-0.4

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Pike	Gun	284	368	339	495	78	91	701	954	36.1
	Crossbow	264	328	175	244	38	36	477	608	27.5
	Vertical Bow	214	232	141	166	32	16	387	414	7.0
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	55	-	7	-	64	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	36	-	90	-	14	-	140	-
	Muzzleloader	76	53	93	107	11	13	180	173	-3.9
	Youth	31	53	24	25	5	5	60	83	38.3
	Total	878	1075	831	1132	171	175	1880	2382	26.7
Portage	Gun	171	212	206	271	74	70	451	553	22.6
	Crossbow	334	388	353	374	77	99	764	861	12.7
	Vertical Bow	117	147	180	194	49	40	346	381	10.1
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	74	-	12	-	86	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	23	-	56	-	9	-	88	-
	Muzzleloader	19	17	49	64	13	13	81	94	16.0
	Youth	17	45	17	49	6	10	40	104	160.0
	Total	718	864	993	1065	260	249	1971	2178	10.5
Preble	Gun	101	97	133	155	38	32	272	284	4.4
	Crossbow	141	159	144	119	36	26	321	304	-5.3
	Vertical Bow	110	113	143	99	27	19	280	231	-17.5
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	39	-	5	-	44	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	10	-	16	-	3	-	29	-
	Muzzleloader	15	16	34	37	6	9	55	62	12.7
	Youth	19	20	15	16	5	7	39	43	10.3
	Total	387	420	515	449	118	96	1020	965	-5.4
Putnam	Gun	115	120	155	149	45	35	315	304	-3.5
	Crossbow	77	74	90	78	36	30	203	182	-10.3
	Vertical Bow	56	75	56	52	13	13	125	140	12.0
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	26	-	6	-	32	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	4	-	12	-	3	-	19	-
	Muzzleloader	12	3	9	10	5	4	26	17	-34.6
	Youth	20	21	22	14	9	3	51	38	-25.5
	Total	283	299	360	316	116	89	759	704	-7.2
Richland	Gun	423	434	583	618	153	170	1159	1222	5.4
	Crossbow	423	414	410	373	100	89	933	876	-6.1
	Vertical Bow	240	253	265	288	70	52	575	593	3.1
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	77	-	20	-	98	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	52	-	74	-	24	-	150	-
	Muzzleloader	76	57	129	115	36	32	241	204	-15.4
	Youth	56	61	43	37	13	18	112	116	3.6
	Total	1227	1279	1521	1523	396	387	3144	3189	1.4

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Ross	Gun	459	483	536	648	111	133	1106	1264	14.3
	Crossbow	370	467	272	354	46	52	688	873	26.9
	Vertical Bow	302	323	248	264	40	34	590	621	5.3
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	76	-	16	-	94	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	52	-	116	-	17	-	185	-
	Muzzleloader	107	89	175	162	19	33	301	284	-5.6
	Youth	62	99	45	44	13	19	120	162	35.0
	Total	1306	1529	1367	1603	249	293	2922	3425	17.2
Sandusky	Gun	111	114	119	116	31	28	261	258	-1.1
	Crossbow	159	142	160	154	51	41	370	337	-8.9
	Vertical Bow	55	82	89	71	22	18	166	171	3.0
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	30	-	10	-	41	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	6	-	19	-	4	-	29	-
	Muzzleloader	15	12	26	38	10	6	51	56	9.8
	Youth	9	9	13	4	8	2	30	15	-50.0
	Total	356	369	443	406	136	99	935	874	-6.5
Scioto	Gun	273	442	417	616	71	106	761	1164	53.0
	Crossbow	281	409	221	325	33	42	535	776	45.0
	Vertical Bow	232	326	243	221	35	32	510	579	13.5
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	50	-	7	-	59	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	50	-	94	-	20	-	164	-
	Muzzleloader	76	71	104	103	19	21	199	195	-2.0
	Youth	30	62	34	50	7	15	71	127	78.9
	Total	898	1369	1076	1427	174	238	2148	3034	41.2
Seneca	Gun	284	305	322	371	104	103	710	779	9.7
	Crossbow	194	232	181	199	47	52	422	483	14.5
	Vertical Bow	100	109	124	115	31	28	255	252	-1.2
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	65	-	17	-	83	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	23	-	50	-	11	-	84	-
	Muzzleloader	42	19	61	49	19	9	122	77	-36.9
	Youth	32	46	32	38	14	11	78	95	21.8
	Total	657	739	787	831	233	215	1677	1785	6.4
Shelby	Gun	149	137	197	199	51	51	397	387	-2.5
	Crossbow	123	125	136	138	37	37	296	300	1.4
	Vertical Bow	72	75	122	86	36	28	230	189	-17.8
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	55	-	7	-	63	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	11	-	12	-	11	-	34	-
	Muzzleloader	17	11	34	38	9	14	60	63	5.0
	Youth	21	30	33	26	11	11	65	67	3.1
	Total	387	393	580	505	151	152	1118	1050	-6.1

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Stark	Gun	230	280	414	465	115	118	759	863	13.7
	Crossbow	397	371	441	498	109	107	947	976	3.1
	Vertical Bow	177	210	280	277	53	44	510	531	4.1
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	114	-	28	-	145	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	38	-	65	-	21	-	124	-
	Muzzleloader	46	54	103	96	18	24	167	174	4.2
	Youth	33	21	30	36	9	7	72	64	-11.1
	Total	895	987	1395	1451	335	322	2625	2760	5.1
Summit	Gun	48	72	63	78	11	17	122	167	36.9
	Crossbow	325	369	496	423	98	118	919	910	-1.0
	Vertical Bow	118	134	169	167	39	41	326	342	4.9
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	17	-	3	-	20	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	12	-	13	-	1	-	26	-
	Muzzleloader	8	12	20	14	2	2	30	28	-6.7
	Youth	2	6	3	3	5	0	10	9	-10.0
	Total	505	607	773	700	160	180	1438	1487	3.4
Trumbull	Gun	311	342	522	624	150	176	983	1142	16.2
	Crossbow	414	458	516	518	169	137	1099	1113	1.3
	Vertical Bow	172	188	289	261	62	71	523	520	-0.6
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	116	-	29	-	147	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	50	-	90	-	26	-	166	-
	Muzzleloader	53	30	134	87	47	30	234	147	-37.2
	Youth	27	28	38	32	16	21	81	81	0.0
	Total	1018	1139	1676	1674	496	480	3190	3293	3.2
Tuscarawas	Gun	711	734	1121	1022	242	243	2074	1999	-3.6
	Crossbow	534	577	558	476	95	96	1187	1149	-3.2
	Vertical Bow	375	408	406	314	53	44	834	766	-8.2
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	131	-	19	-	151	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	79	-	168	-	49	-	296	-
	Muzzleloader	105	125	217	253	41	32	363	410	12.9
	Youth	90	122	98	70	32	34	220	226	2.7
	Total	1833	2069	2561	2350	491	503	4885	4922	0.8
Union	Gun	137	143	139	150	37	43	313	336	7.3
	Crossbow	108	133	81	91	32	27	221	251	13.6
	Vertical Bow	103	112	95	97	26	18	224	227	1.3
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	47	-	11	-	58	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	9	-	21	-	2	-	32	-
	Muzzleloader	17	14	19	21	5	8	41	43	4.9
	Youth	12	23	18	12	8	1	38	36	-5.3
	Total	379	436	402	397	124	99	905	932	3.0

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
VanWert	Gun	102	112	152	106	29	19	283	237	-16.3
	Crossbow	63	54	60	37	17	11	140	102	-27.1
	Vertical Bow	27	30	44	44	6	3	77	77	0.0
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	15	-	5	-	20	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	2	-	6	-	7	-	15	-
	Muzzleloader	7	8	11	9	4	3	22	20	-9.1
	Youth	11	21	18	13	1	4	30	38	26.7
	Total	212	228	302	217	62	47	576	492	-14.6
Vinton	Gun	370	550	530	737	131	153	1031	1440	39.7
	Crossbow	255	329	242	216	42	43	539	588	9.1
	Vertical Bow	236	234	194	178	40	26	470	438	-6.8
	Early Muzzleloader	4	-	108	-	17	-	129	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	63	-	106	-	32	-	201	-
	Muzzleloader	83	88	137	146	23	34	243	268	10.3
	Youth	35	68	30	24	10	10	75	102	36.0
	Total	990	1343	1247	1418	266	298	2503	3059	22.2
Warren	Gun	119	125	161	151	41	43	321	319	-0.6
	Crossbow	219	257	206	192	41	33	466	482	3.4
	Vertical Bow	134	145	149	131	27	20	310	296	-4.5
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	38	-	6	-	45	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	10	-	29	-	5	-	44	-
	Muzzleloader	18	27	35	41	12	6	65	74	13.8
	Youth	10	19	14	13	2	3	26	35	34.6
	Total	503	589	611	565	130	112	1244	1266	1.8
Washington	Gun	545	690	734	889	130	159	1409	1738	23.3
	Crossbow	301	445	198	219	36	34	535	698	30.5
	Vertical Bow	261	266	154	138	27	15	442	419	-5.2
	Early Muzzleloader	0	-	63	-	2	-	65	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	69	-	126	-	15	-	210	-
	Muzzleloader	114	64	189	196	37	30	340	290	-14.7
	Youth	83	97	45	40	13	8	141	145	2.8
	Total	1311	1648	1399	1616	245	262	2955	3526	19.3
Wayne	Gun	194	226	339	376	106	81	639	683	6.9
	Crossbow	246	294	265	270	50	48	561	612	9.1
	Vertical Bow	141	130	213	176	31	27	385	333	-13.5
	Early Muzzleloader	3	-	89	-	12	-	104	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	47	-	49	-	13	-	109	-
	Muzzleloader	27	22	92	78	18	19	137	119	-13.1
	Youth	37	37	34	29	6	13	77	79	2.6
	Total	651	766	1045	997	227	208	1923	1971	2.5

APPENDIX 1

COUNTY HARVEST SUMMARIES

County	Season	Bucks		Does		Button bucks		Total Harvest		
		2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change (%)
Williams	Gun	311	322	424	404	96	97	831	823	-1.0
	Crossbow	153	224	174	202	41	50	368	476	29.3
	Vertical Bow	147	142	198	156	28	28	373	326	-12.6
	Early Muzzleloader	1	-	55	-	13	-	69	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	17	-	30	-	4	-	51	-
	Muzzleloader	25	31	52	50	9	14	86	95	10.5
	Youth	23	24	15	21	9	3	47	48	2.1
	Total	662	764	931	872	197	200	1790	1836	2.6
Wood	Gun	147	116	194	144	48	33	389	293	-24.7
	Crossbow	155	153	159	108	31	30	345	291	-15.7
	Vertical Bow	89	89	99	56	15	13	203	158	-22.2
	Early Muzzleloader	2	-	36	-	4	-	42	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	13	-	14	-	4	-	31	-
	Muzzleloader	19	12	24	15	4	4	47	31	-34.0
	Youth	14	15	17	8	7	5	38	28	-26.3
	Total	428	402	539	348	111	91	1078	841	-22.0
Wyandot	Gun	311	250	342	357	96	89	749	696	-7.1
	Crossbow	119	124	126	120	35	28	280	272	-2.9
	Vertical Bow	98	103	135	120	29	14	262	237	-9.5
	Early Muzzleloader	4	-	69	-	15	-	88	-	-
	Bonus Gun	-	22	-	38	-	12	-	72	-
	Muzzleloader	28	34	46	65	17	16	91	115	26.4
	Youth	27	43	26	29	12	7	65	79	21.5
	Total	596	593	764	747	208	175	1568	1515	-3.4

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